Hafa Adai!

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Ninth Circuit judges deny Guanlao's motion. PAGE 2

Child, 3, figures in near-drowning. PAGE 3

Rota Mayor Atalig indicted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Atalig

A federal grand jury has indicted Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig after he allegedly arranged a government-funded trip from Rota to Guam for himself and 12 others, including eight municipal employees, on an allegedly false claim that he was going to check for surplus equipment at the Naval Base in Guam. According to the allegation, he actually went there to participate in a partisan political rally last June 23 in Mangilao.

The indictment charged Atalig with one count of wire fraud. It was

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New conditions for IPI project

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI Lottery Commission and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have agreed on the conditions set in the amended casino license agreement, which was signed before the end of office hours last Friday.

The lottery commission—composed of chair Mark Rabauliman and commissioners Larrisa Larson and Robert Guerrero—unanimously voted to grant IPI's request for extension to Feb. 28, 2021 in order for IPI to finish its multi-million-dollar initial gaming facility.

The original deadline was last Friday, Aug. 31, and IPI's origi-

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RELATED NEWS

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➤ Pacific Rim: No US workers were laid off. PAGE 13

PAYDAY BLUES
Laborers working at the Imperial Pacific Resort construction site form a long line to cash their paychecks last Friday outside the Bank of Saipan in Garapan.
JON PEREZ

IPI profit dips due to gambling debts

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The profit of Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited in the first six months of 2018 plunged by almost 50 percent, largely due to uncollectable gambling debts incurred by VIPs and other high rollers that played at Imperial Pacific Resort's casino.

IPI Holdings is the parent company of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which holds the lone casino license on Saipan. The CNMI Lottery Commission, last Friday, granted IPI an extension to finish the

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Mariana Resort employees in limbo

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The fate of 141 employees of Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. is in limbo after the Kitami family opted to end its businesses in Marpi—the Mariana Resort & Spa and the Mariana Country Club, including the 50-meter Olympic-size swimming pool—marking the end of almost four decades of operation in the CNMI.

In a letter to employees last week, Kan Pacific president Yoshihiro Kitami said that they would be closing at the end of September.

Close to 30 employees, however, will be retained to continue with their new business ventures: Zen Teppanyaki restaurant in Garapan, the Mari-

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Local

Ninth Circuit judges deny Guanlao's motion

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has denied Amalia Abo Guanlao's motion to reconsider its denial last Aug. 23 of her emergency request to suspend a federal court's order against her.

The District Court's recent order granted U.S. Immigration and Customs officials' request to dissolve the court's previous order that stayed a removal order against Guanlao.

Ninth Circuit judges Barry G. Silverman and Milan D. Smith Jr. did not explain their decision to deny Guanlao's motion for reconsideration.

Silverman and Smith, however, said the briefing schedule established previously remains in effect pertaining to Guanlao's appeal.

In their Aug. 23 order, Ninth Circuit judges also did not indicate the reason as to why they denied Guanlao's emergency motion.

Guanlao, through counsel Rosemond Santos, filed the emergency motion to stay pending her appeal of the District Court's Aug. 13 order.

In that Aug. 13 order, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood denied Guanlao's motion to a stay pending appeal of the proceedings in federal court pending her appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

Guanlao is a Filipino mother of two minor U.S. children who has been fighting a 2013 immigration court's order to have her removed from the U.S.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that without a reason to maintain the stay that was originally imposed by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, ICE officials' motion to dissolve the stay is granted.

The judge said Guanlao has not made any specific arguments about the public interest or harm to the opposing parties.

According to court records, on Sept. 10, 2013, an immigration judge found that Guanlao was deportable and ordered her deported to the Philippines.

Guanlao appealed the judge's decision to the Board of Appeals. She lost her case before the immigration court.

In June 2016, she filed a petition in federal court for a writ of habeas corpus, seeking determination of "the legality of her continued detention and intended removal" and "a stay of her removal during the pendency of this case."

Aside from naming then-U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson as respondent, Guanlao also sued several U.S. immigration officials.

Guanlao alleged a violation of her due process rights because her then-counsel Alice Rae failed to inform her of the ability to file a petition for review of the final removal order to the Ninth Circuit.

On June 23, 2016, Manglona entered a stay on her removal "while the court hears the petition on the merits."

Tydingco-Gatewood, who later presided over the case, then dismissed Guanlao's claims with prejudice. However, she did not explicitly address the stay of removal.

In light of the court's dismissal of the claims, ICE officials requested an order explicitly dissolving the stay of removal entered in 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Motion to amend judgment vs Defense, Navy denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday denied Tinian Women Association and three other environmental groups' motion to amend her judgment that favored the U.S Department of Defense and Department of Navy.

Manglona said her findings do not undermine her conclusion that Defense and Navy provided a rational reason for excluding the proposed range and training areas on Tinian and Pagan from the relocation final environmental impact statement and, instead, assessing them in the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement draft EIS.

Thus, Manglona said, the actions set out in the relocation final EIS and actions proposed in the CJMT draft EIS are not connected.

Further, the judge said, the exhibits do not undermine the court's determination that the actions set out in the relocation final EIS and CJMT draft EIS may have cumulative impacts, and defendants are required to assess them while revising the CJMT draft EIS.

Henkin

The Tinian Women Association and three other environmental groups, through counsel David L. Henkin and Kimberlyn King-Hinds, had asked the court to amend the footnote in its decision to correct the fact that these seven exhibits are part of the administrative record.

The groups said the court should then review and consider those exhibits in rendering its decision on the merits.

The lawyers said the court "should correct its mistake" and "reconsider its decision" in light of the improperly excluded exhibits.

In her order Friday, Manglona granted the motion to amend the footnote of her decision and order about the seven exhibits.

Last Aug. 22, Manglona ruled that Defense and Navy have not violated the National Environmental Policy Act or the Administrative Procedure Act in connection with the environmental groups' lawsuit.

Manglona said she finds that the Defense and Navy's decision to limit the training and range areas to those that meet the needs of the Marines being relocated from Okinawa to Guam "was not arbitrary, capricious, [or] an abuse of discretion."

"The decision was rationally and reasonably based on a consideration of the factors relevant to complying with the diplomatic agreement with Japan while meeting the immediate training needs of the Marines," said Manglona in a 41-page decision that favored Defense and Navy.

The judge further finds that the actions decided on in the relocation final environmental impact statement and supplemental environmental impact statement for the relocation of Marines in Okinawa to Guam, and the range and training areas proposed in the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement draft EIS are not connected actions.

The Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity are suing Navy and Defense and their top officials for alleged violation of NEPA APA over their decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-training on Tinian and Pagan.

The lawsuit involves a procedural challenge to Defense and Navy's decisions to relocate thousands of Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to build training and base facilities on Guam and Tinian that are necessary to meet their needs.

Jebi is no longer a threat to Marianas

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Super Typhoon Jebi, which closely resembled Super Typhoon Soudelor over the weekend, has weakened and no longer threatens the Marianas.

Jebi intensified from just a typhoon into a super typhoon as it threaded its way between Pagan and Alamagan. Briefly, Jebi became a a Category 4 typhoon and was the planet's most intense tropical cyclone of 2018 before weakening.

According to an interview with Homeland Security public information officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Jebi closely resembled Super Typhoon Soudelor because of how concentrated the center of the typhoon was.

Yesterday, the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, said that Jebi is no longer a super typhoon and continues to weaken while it moves northwest.

As of 1pm yesterday, the center of Typhoon Jebi was located 390 miles west-southwest of Iwo To Island, about 725 miles west-northwest of Agrihan, about 755 miles west-northwest of Pagan, about 775 miles west-northwest of Alamagan, about 870 miles northwest of Saipan, and about 905 miles northwest of Guam.

Typhoon Jebi remains at maximum sustained winds of 130 mph and was last reported heading 320 degrees northwest at 14 mph.

Typhoon Jebi is expected to make a turn toward the north-northwest before turning more to the north today and northeast tonight before making landfall in Japan on Tuesday.

Typhoon Jebi is forecast to slowly weaken over the next few days, and Jebi has decreased below super typhoon intensity. However, Jebi will remain a typhoon until it makes landfall on Tuesday.

Typhoon force winds extend outward up to 45 miles from the center.

Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 175 miles to the northeast but only 115 miles to the southwest.

Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

The Marianas
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HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Rota, renowned among the islands of The Marianas for its untouched nature beauty and warm island hospitality, is gearing up to welcome visitors for its second Rota Coconut Festival on Sept. 13-15, 2018.

Festivities kick off with a proclamation signing on Thursday, Sept. 13, at 9 a.m. by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig at the Office of the Mayor. The same day, a new art gallery at the Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs will be opened with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

On Friday, Sept. 14, the festival activities begin at 9 a.m. at the Chamorro Village Park in Songsong village, including a Coconut Tree Competition at 4 p.m. to replicate a tree out of natural or recycled material At 6 p.m. mouthwatering Food Fair Competition will tantalize the taste buds with cooking competitions for the following dishes: "manha titiyas," "manha" pie, "apigigi" (roasted young coconut), doughnuts, coconut candy, "ahu" (sweet, young coconut soup), "miso ayuyu," soup, and other dishes.

On the final day, Sept. 15, a fashion show at 6:30 p.m. will feature attire and accessories made from parts of thxe coconut tree. A lip sync competition will be held at 7:30 a.m., both at Chamorro Village Park.

The weekend event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office with support from the MVA, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, Ambros Inc., and other government agencies.

For more information, contact Special Asst. for Programs and Grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office at 1.670.532.9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Field Supervisor Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 1.670.532.0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com.

The Marianas Calendar
www.mymarianas.com

International Festival of Cultures
September 21-23, 2018
Paseo de Marianas

Gineptin Ha'anen Taga (Chief Taga Festival)
October 2-7, 2018
Tinian

2nd Annual Marianas Beer & Barbecue Festival
October 6, 2018

Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby
October 19-21, 2018

Child, 3, figures in near-drowning

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A 3-year-old child who figured in a near-drowning incident last Friday has since recovered.

The 3-year-old boy was found with no breath at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan swimming pool. Although the victim was not breathing, a pulse was found.

The victim, a Korean boy, was reportedly swimming with his sibling and his mother who had turned away from him for less than 30 seconds before the incident.

According to Department of Public Safety report, dispatch received the call on Friday Aug. 31, at about 3:57pm, reporting the incident.

Boating Safety officers arrived at 4:05pm and met with the resort's supervising lifeguard. According to the lifeguard, he was on duty when a woman and her two children were swimming in the pool. The lifeguard said he noticed that the 3-year-old boy was not moving, so he jumped in, removed the child from the water, and administered two rescue breaths before medics arrived and transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Although the victim was not breathing, the lifeguard said that the child did have a pulse at the time of transport.

Boating Safety officers later met with the mother of the victim at CHC, who said she and her family had just moved to Saipan in July.

The mother said she was in the pool with her children and had turned away from the victim for a few seconds.

The mother said she had a lifejacket with her but the victim was not wearing it.

Doctors at CHCC examined the child who later began breathing on his own. He was treated and has since been released.

Last July 14, one of four diving students accompanied by an instructor reportedly panicked and drowned at a Lau Lau Bay dive spot.

Deadline to register as voters is this Friday

The Commonwealth Election Commission is reminding CNMI residents that the deadline to register as a voter in the Nov. 6 general election is this Friday, Sept. 7.

This Friday is also the deadline for CNMI voters to inform CEC about any changes in their information, said CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol.

Igitol said registered voters should provide them with an updated address, notify them if they have transferred precincts and if they have changes in their first or last names.

Igitol

CEC recently reported that there were over 18,200 registered voters in the CNMI for this year's election, which is a record-breaking number.

Meanwhile, CEC started opening the request for absentee ballots last Aug. 23. The deadline to make such request is Oct. 12.

As of last week, Igitol said there were 345 voters who askeed for absentee ballots. At that time, CEC was still processing more requests. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NEW

From Page 1

nal request was only for two years—Aug. 31, 2020.

"The essence of all of this is everybody wants it to be up and running, but taking those things into consideration, we want to be able to give each other enough buffer, enough time to meet whatever challenges. Hopefully, with the exception national disasters, that everything [will be] tightened up and completed in a timely manner," said Rabauliman.

After an almost two-hour long meeting that same day, Rabauliman said they needed to make sure all the language that they agreed upon, including the notes they took down during Wednesday's public hearing, are included.

Assistant attorney general Chris Timmons also had to review the amended CLA before both representatives of both parties—Rabauliman and IPI Special Projects senior vice president Viola Alepuyo—and the government sign the final draft.

Alepuyo confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that she and Rabauliman signed the amended CLA late Friday afternoon, with acting governor Victor B. Hocog the last to affix his signature around 5pm.

Rabauliman also clarified that if amendment No. 6 hadn't been signed by 11:59pm last Friday, even though they had already agreed to grant IPI's extension request, then the casino operator would have violated amendment No. 5 of the CLA.

If ever the new conditions for the agreement were not signed after Aug. 31 at 11:59pm or 12 midnight of Sept. 1, that is only when the Commonwealth Casino Commission would come in and impose sanctions since IPI would have already violated the deadline that was set in amendment No. 5 of the CLA. CCC deals with the enforcement of the CLC.

New conditions

Both parties, after almost three days of negotiations, agreed that fines would be imposed if IPI does not meet the new deadline of Feb. 28, 2021. Liquidated damages were inserted in amendment No. 6 where 1 (b) states that a $5,000 per day deadline will be slapped if IPI fails to meet the IGF's construction completion date.

"[The] licensee agrees that the unexcused delay in the construction completion of the [IGF] shall result in imposition of liquidated damages in the amount of $5,000 per day [or] up to a total of $1,825,000 per year or more, depending on the length of construction completion delay," the revised CLA states.

Alepuyo said the construction will be deemed complete tie when the Department of Public Works issues a certificate of occupancy permit. "If we don't meet that, then it is only when we will be assessed a $5,000 fine a day. It will be $1,825,000 if we did not complete it in one year. That's basically $5,000 multiplied by 365 days," Alepuyo said.

A consideration clause was also included in the draft wherein IPI agrees to donate $500,000 to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. "[The] licensee agrees that in consideration for the extension of the implementation schedule for the [IGF] construction completion for Feb. 28, 2021, a $500,000 donation will be made to CHCC for the purchase of medical equipment as determined by CHCC."

Alepuyo said they also agreed to have a monitoring system in place on the construction progress of the IGF, which was stated on 1. (a) in the initial draft of the amended CLA.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DEBTS

From Page 1

casino-hotel on Feb. 28, 2021.

Based on the unaudited interim results released last Aug. 31 for the first six months of 2018, IPI Holdings recorded revenues of HK$2,214,795,000 or US$282,198,104.93 with the current exchange rate pegged at HK$1 to US$0.13 when trading closed last Friday.

The group still had gross profit earnings of HK$1,953,079,000 (US$248,851,560.78) but was HK$2,134,669,000 (US$271,988,850.63) lower compared to the HK$4,087,748,000 (US$520,840,411.42) it collected in the same period last year.

Their total net profit for the same period in the first six months of this year was HK$78,977,000 or US$10,062,854.46, compared to HK$912,028,000 (US$116,206,047.62) in the second quarter last year.

IPI, almost one week before the release of its financial report, already filed a profit warning announcement with the Hong King Stock Exchange, telling shareholders to expect a decrease in earnings for the six-month period in 2018.

Uncollectable VIP gambling debts contributed largely to the loss in profit as IPI chose to transact and offer direct credit to its VIP customers rather than getting third-party junket operators since they began operations of its casino in 2015.

Gaming news website CalvinAyre said that IPI has written off a total of US$733 million in bad gambling debts, where US$318,537,500 was from 10 VIP clients alone. The $733 million is more than double it wrote off in the same period last year when IPI saw its gross revenues rise to US$933 million. IPI has yet to write off more than US$140.2 million owed by one large debtor.

IPI Holdings' stock prices closed at HK$0.73 per share last Friday.

ROTA

From Page 1

filed last Thursday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, but designated Judge David O. Carter unsealed the matter last Friday at the request of assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto.

Atalig was not arrested; he was only summoned to appear in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for his initial appearance hearing on Tuesday at 1:30pm.

As this developed, the Office of the Attorney General also filed Friday criminal charges in Superior Court against 57-year-old Atalig and seven others Rota municipal officials in connection with the Guam political rally.

The seven defendants are Labor Department resident director Dexter Apatang, 46; Public Works Department resident director Vanessa Charfauros, 42; Commerce Department resident director Dean Manglona, 35; Public Safety Department resident director Eusebio Manglona, 43; resident director for the Department of Finance Josepha Manglona, 56; resident deputy commissioner for the Department of Fire and Emergency and Medical Services Dennis Mendiola, 38; and resident director for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Magdalena Mesngon, 49.

In the local court case, the information charged Atalig and the seven other co-defendants each with theft and misconduct in public office.

A *Saipan Tribune* source disclosed that the OAG issued penal summons against Atalig and his seven co-defendants to appear for an arraignment on Sept. 28, 2018.

Beginning in June 2018, Atalig allegedly arranged a government-funded trip from Rota to Guam for himself and 12 other persons, including Rota municipal employees, by means of false claims and under fraudulent pretenses.

According to seven of the 10 CNMI government travel authorizations signed by Atalig, the purpose of the trip was to go to "DRMO" at the Naval Base Guam to look for surplus equipment and "travel to be performed in the interest of the CNMI gov't," according to Benedetto in the indictment.

DRMO refers to a U.S. Department of Defense office formerly known as the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, but now called DLA Disposition Services.

One function of DRMO is to sell surplus and used federal equipment.

During the trip, Benedetto said, Atalig did not go to DRMO at all. He said no participant on the trip made an advance appointment with DRMO, as was required.

He said the true purpose of the trip was to participate in a partisan political rally held last June 23 in Mangilao.

Atalig also allegedly authorized payments using government funds to pay per diems and other expenses for himself and up to eight people, as well as to charter two roundtrip air flights from Rota to Guam, departing last June 20 and returning last June 25. The total amount of payments allegedly exceeded $10,000 in CNMI government funds for per diems, airfare, and other expenses, for Atalig and up to eight people.

Benedetto said federal and CNMI law restricts the use of public funds, time, personnel, or equipment for political or campaign activity, according to the indictment.

Atalig, a Republican, is seeking re-election.

Last June 6, Atalig allegedly sent an email using email address mayorsofficerota@gmail.com to smarreservation2015@gmail.com, reserving two charter flights from Rota to Guam.

If he is convicted, Atalig will forfeit to the U.S. the money equal to the total value of proceeds from the commission of the offense.

In the local court case, assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas stated in the information that the alleged offenses happened between June 20 and 25, 2018, on Rota.

Atalig allegedly used the Rota Imprest Fund to charter two planes valued at $6,553 for himself, several public officials, and his family to travel from Rota to Guam and return to Rota.

Atalig allegedly used police services to provide security for himself valued at $408, took government per diem in the amount of $1,015, and claimed $865 in salary compensation to attend the Republican campaign rally on Guam last June 23.

Atalig and the seven other co-defendants, as public officials, allegedly "performed illegal acts under the color of office."

Apatang allegedly took government per diem in the amount of $400, and claimed $519 in salary compensation; Charfauros $400 in per diem and $519 in salary compensation; Dean Manglona 1,196 in per diem and $519 in salary compensation; Eusebio Manglona $1,268 in per diem and $519 in salary compensation; Josepha Manglona $938 in per diem and $519 in salary compensation; Dennis Manglona $918 in per diem and $519 in salary compensation; and Mesngon $1,253 in per diem and $519 in salary compensation.

MARIANA

From Page 1

ana Lounge, and the Mariana Grand Service.

"It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that [MRS] will be going out of business and shutting down our operations permanently this coming Sept. 30. As you are very well aware, Kan Pacific's public land lease expired and was not granted an extension. Thus, we have no other option but to close down operations and vacate our Marpi premises and facilities," Kitami said in the letter.

"Consequently, as difficult as it is, I must also inform you that you are being laid off effective Oct. 1, 2018. This layoff action is indefinite in duration and is permanent in nature. We appreciate all your contribution to the company. I regret that, because of events beyond [our] control, we are not able to continue operating and employing you. My best wishes for success in your future endeavors," he added.

MRS general manager William Retardo said the Kitami family was left with no choice but to cease company operations as it had already incurred huge losses. "We can't get any advance bookings since we don't know when will the land lease be awarded to IPI."

"If DPL gave us an extension until January, what will happen to us when…IPI… is finally awarded the land? We are in a difficult situation and the Kitami family was left with no choice but to close down. They had tried to maintain the business despite incurring huge losses in the past few months."

There were also reports that IPI would absorb some of the MRS employees when they take over, but the plans of the casino-hotel investor have yet to be known. If this happens, Retardo said this would be welcome news since it would secure the employment of some of their employees. "It would be good news if it would push through. We'll know if they finally take over the operations. Right now, we don't know what their [IPI] plans are and if they are already processing the transfer of some of the employees."

"IPI would need employees if it takes over Mariana Resort. It would be nice if they would retain the employees since their work is secured instead of finding work. It would be much better if they are retained by the company that would take over [MRS]. Hopefully that would happen before Sept. 29 so the employees won't worry that much."

Also included in the hotel operations are the restaurants, function rooms, Mandi Asian Spa, and fitness center.

It is not yet known if Marianas Trekking, a separate business that operates the go-kart racing facility and ATV tours, would also be affected.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is expected to take over the operations of MRS' facilities, as it was the lone company that submitted a bid to the Department of Public Lands when the MRS lease expired this year.

IPI had asked the CNMI Lottery Commission to allow them to operate a less than five-star hotel since MRS could be considered a three-star facility. But CLC chair Mark Rabauliman said they only granted the extension request to complete the initial gaming facility.

"At this point, those were topics that were not relevant to the discussion for the extension. As they were some things that are down the road, they are still going through procurement processes or going through different agencies," said Rabauliman, who added that IPI's request to operate a less than five-star hotel is in DPL's jurisdiction.

"We did not see the relation to the immediate task at hand, which is the deadline for the extension that was looming. They tabled those requests, they put in those requests but we did not see it fit. Those are dealing with DPL and the negotiations are between them. What they [DPL] might be requiring, I don't know if we have to go back to the table."

DPL and IPI are still negotiating and finalizing the terms of the takeover, with the former issuing a notice of intent to award the lands leased by Kan Pacific.

DPL issued the notice of intent to award to IPI on July 15, 2016, pursuant to RFP15-RED006 for the public lands in Marpi where the Mariana Resort & Spa is located.

DPL has not yet awarded the land and, once all issues are settled, the Legislature will have to sign the lease agreement since the property is larger than 50,000 square meters.

Rock formations on the east side of Pagan look like buttresses on a cathedral. BEA CABRERA

People in NI safe after Jebi

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Northern Islands Mayor Vicente B. Santos has assured that people on the Northern Islands of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan are safe, soon after Super Typhoon Jebi threaded its way through the region on its way to Japan.

"The people in the Northern Islands are safe and all infrastructure are intact despite of the reported intensity of Typhoon Jebi," said Santos.

"The damage that [Super] Typhoon Jebi caused the islands was flooding because of the heavy and long downpour but, after communication last Friday at 3pm and assessment with the people who are there, everyone is safe," Santos added.

According to weather.com, Super Typhoon Jebi, a Category 4 powerhouse, was the planet's most intense tropical cyclone of 2018 and is now setting its sights on Japan, though not at its current intensity. Typhoon Condition 1 was briefly hoisted over the three islands.

Citing a U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center report, weather.com said that Jebi strengthened from a tropical storm to the equivalent of a Category 5 super typhoon, gaining 110 mph of estimated maximum sustained wind speed in just over 48 hours from Wednesday morning through Friday afternoon.

Jebi raked Pagan, Alamagan, and Agrihan in the Northern Mariana Islands with wind gusts over 100 mph, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

This comes two weeks after Typhoon Cimaron hit the Northern Islands.

According to Santos, he plans to go up there as soon as he gets the go-signal from the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Center to re-stock supplies on the islands.

"We plan to go on a trip ,hopefully next week, when we are told that waters are calm and safe travel to the Northern Islands is viable. Tomorrow, I have a meeting with Homeland Security because, aside from getting travel permission they also have supplies allotted for the people of the Northern Islands," Santos said.

"This is the same with American Red Cross, as they have supplies that are awaiting to be transported to provide relief for the people on the islands. Once everything is coordinated, we will bring these contingencies up there," Santos added.

Currently, there are four residents on Alamagan, 16 on Pagan, and six on Agrihan. "There were more residents during the summer, but since school started, the children are back on Saipan to continue their studies. There were a total of eight children who spent their summer in the Northern Islands and we brought them back to Saipan before school started," he said.

"To date, there are more people who want to go and live in the Northern Islands. We are happy about this. We welcome their interest in going back and we encourage them to coordinate with the Northern Islands Mayor's office," he added.

NMI flags return to full-staff yesterday

All American and CNMI flags returned to full-staff yesterday, at sunset, signaling the interment of Sen. John Sidney McCain III, who passed away on Aug. 25.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, in his capacity as acting governor, had all American and CNMI flags lowered to half-staff starting on Aug. 28, in honor of the life and service of McCain.

McCain died at age 81. He was buried yesterday at his alma mater, the U.S. Naval Academy. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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GRADUATE SCHOOL USA

The opening plenary session of the 2018 Annual Conference of the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors in Palau.

GRADUATE SCHOOL USA

Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. addresses the 2018 Annual Conference of the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors in Palau.

Let's celebrate the labour that built up this great land
from field to fiend and desk to desk, they built it hand in hand.
HAPPY LABOR DAY!
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Pacific public auditors hold Palau conference

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs provided support to the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors for its 29th annual conference in Koror, Palau, on Aug. 6-10, 2018.

The conference was hosted by Palau's Office of the Public Auditor.

OIA provided training and logistical support to the conference through the Graduate School USA, providing conference participants the opportunity to receive up to 40 hours of continuing professional education credit.

Twenty-two courses were delivered during the conference in four training tracks: 1) audit, 2) audit supervisory, 3) finance, and 4) advanced finance and management.

"Financial management and accountability are critical to ensuring successful and effective government," said Doug Domenech, assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "[Interior] Secretary Ryan Zinke and I are pleased to provide this assistance and support toward the success of public auditors and finance professionals in each of the island areas."

Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr., gave welcoming remarks to conference participants at the start of the conference, reminding participants that "accountability is all of our responsibilities…from family to government."

Three hundred and thirty-seven insular government participants attended this year's conference from throughout the Pacific islands, including American Samoa; Guam; the CNMI; Hawaii; Palau; the Marshall Islands; Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia; and Fiji.

Also in attendance were representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General.

A total of 1,958 course certificates were awarded for 12,364 hours of CPE credit.

Funds were made available through OIA's Technical Assistance Program.

For more information about Graduate School USA and the programs they provide for the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States under contract to the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, visit http://www.pitiviti.org/. ***(PR)***

CCC to IPI: Look into protests

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has prodded Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to look into the latest incident of workers staging a protest in front of the casino-resort in Garapan to demand payment.

During the commission's meeting last Thursday, commission chair Juan Sablan said he wants IPI officials to investigate employee protests under Jiangsu Provincial Construction Group as they protested last week with claims of not receiving overtime compensation for nine months.

» IPI: They are not our employees; they protested to stay

IPI sub-contracted the services of American Sinopan LLC to provide manpower while American Sinopan sub-contracted Jiangsu to work on the IPI project in Garapan.

"I understand that they are not IPI employees and I also understand that they are not American Sinopan employees, but this is the same process with what happened to MCC International," casino commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said in Thursday's meeting, when Sablan asked IPI officials if they were investigating the matter.

"…It is our understanding that they have been fully paid, and that they were just complaining because they want to stay on the island," said an official of the IPI legal team, citing information relayed to them by American Sinopan.

"IPI should be discussing with American Sinopan their obligations to their subcontracts, otherwise we would have a repeat of MCC," warned Deleon Guerrero.

"Can we get a more detailed investigation on that issue because… we do not want a repeat of previous situation," added Sablan, saying that even though the protesters are not directly employed by IPI, they remain a "part of the project."

The commission expects a report from IPI about the matter at the next casino commission meeting this month.

Sablan noted that he is looking into inserting provisions over subcontracting and how they affect the IPI project as a whole.

American Sinopan, according to Deleon Guerrero, is currently applying for a license from the casino commission. He noted that the application was submitted prior to the protest; however, one of the requirements are to be in full compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration, local, federal, and all other laws.

"It appears that, if what those workers say is true, then we may not be able to license [American] Sinopan, which in this case, if they are a critical component of your project, you might want a heads-up on this," Deleon Guerrero, said, addressing the IPI officials.

"We expect all our contractors and subcontractors to follow the law as well. When the issue was brought to our attention, we were surprised as well. We sought assurances from our subcontractors and they assured us they were paid in full," IPI's Chuck McDonald noted.

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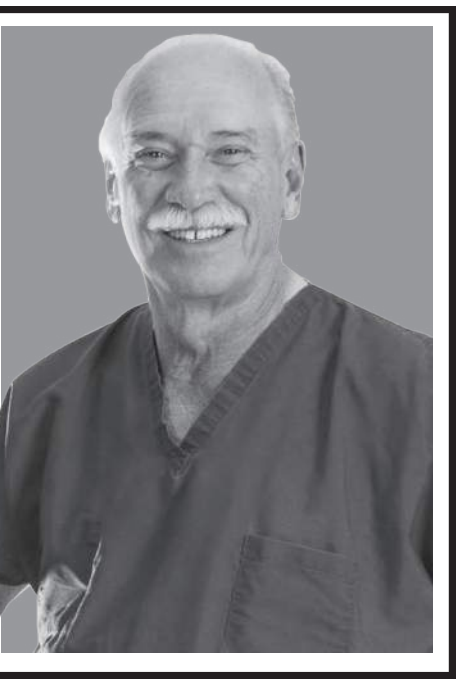

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Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

"Inafa'maolek, Un Guinaiya, Tipiyeew"

This year, we celebrate the fruits of our labor and honor the commitment to public service and the employees who have made numerous contributions over the years. We believe that our community is stronger when we work together to build a better Commonwealth for years to come.

Since the establishment of our government, we have developed new ideas, better policies, and built a stronger infrastructure for the people of the Commonwealth. It is because of this progress that we continue to celebrate the social and economic achievements and recognize the collective efforts of our prosperity and the well-being of our Commonwealth for current and future generations.

From public works, public safety, emergency responders, customs, finance, educators, healthcare professionals, clerical staff, maintenance workers, and to our private sector partners, we thank you. Our workforce is truly the backbone of our Commonwealth and our current progress is the testament to the passion, vigor, and foresight of every individual working to provide and improve upon public services.

As one Marianas, we extend our gratitude to all our public sector employees and together, we will continue to strive for continued progress. We also commend all the teams in the annual 13th Annual CNMI Labor Day Goodwill Tournament. This year we reflect on the values of inafa'maolek, un guinaiya, and tipiyeew. We give love, respect, and honor to everyone who calls these islands home.

Happy Labor Day, Marianas!

RALPH DLG. TORRES

VICTOR B. HOCOG

Reflecting on Labor Day; protecting our borders

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Customs lieutenant John Henry Maratita Sablan, third from right, poses with the Special Enforcement Branch composed of the K-9 Unit, X-Ray Unit and Investigations.

After receiving the distinction of overall government employee of the year, John Henry Maratita Sablan states that without his team and network of support, it would not have been possible.

As the customs lieutenant for the Special Enforcement Branch, Sablan provides direct support for the division's K-9, Investigation, and X-Ray Unit.

"I've always wanted to be in law enforcement and I was very fortunate that a spot in Customs opened up one day. I've worked my way up ever since, starting in operations, to clearing passengers, then the K-9 Unit and later I moved to investigations," he said.

Under the Special Enforcement Branch, Sablan's days usually start very early before the first vessel or domestic airline arrives. "Usually by midnight we begin our briefing as to what happened the night before because we focus on all airports, seaports, and post offices."

With 18 Customs personnel manning the borders and two K-9 handlers from the Department of Public Safety, Sablan said the team must be very well-rounded to tackle 24-hour operations every day.

"At this time, we're in the process of constructing a new kennel and we'll be able to house more canines and reopen the Pacific Regional Detector Dog Center. We currently have four canines on the job and four more undergoing training. This would not have been possible without our leadership's support and our team," he said.

After almost 15 years in public service, Sablan's most memorable moment on the job was a $4.2-million drug seizure. The bust intercepted 12 kilograms of methamphetamine from an incoming container and was discovered after a weeklong inspection of electronic components and apparel.

"Intercepting these drugs and contraband and being part of the biggest bust in the CNMI's history is something that keeps me going. The job is very rewarding and I'm always excited to work with the people on board. It makes it even more rewarding with the continued support of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, [Customs] director [Jose] Mafnas, and Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres," he said.

The strong working relationship within his team makes the job more rewarding and Sablan dedicates it all to his coworkers and mentors.

"We've worked so long together, and we know customs operations throughout. The Oceania Customs Organization has also benefited Customs as a whole by getting all the officers trained on the latest trends and helping us gain more confidence to carry out our duties," he said. "We try to keep the CNMI safe at the borders, but we also collect taxes, and this is a big part of making the economy work. I think we've done a great job with collecting revenue as well as enforcing the law. At the end of the day, I want to give a shout out to my team, especially to the Special Enforcement Branch and the Drug Enforcement Task Force. Without them, I wouldn't have received this award."

During the CNMI Labor Day festivities last Aug. 25, Sablan recognized Torres' War on Ice initiative and expressed his gratitude to his mother, Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), for instilling in him the values of respect and strong work ethic.

Mafnas said the K-9 Unit serves a dual purpose: Dealing with the detection of narcotics and tracking and apprehension of wanted criminals; the X-Ray Unit facilitates with the inspection of baggage and imported cargo.

"These enforcement units are the backbone for all customs investigations of contraband and illegal narcotics. Our officers are assigned at ports of entry and ensure that our community is protected, and revenues are collected. Overall, I am extremely proud of our special enforcement team and commend their excellent work," Mafnas said. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-030

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRESTRESSED CONCRETE POWER POLES
(FEMA Water System Mitigation Project)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-030, Supply & Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 7, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA and the CUC, Board of Directors'.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-adrian.reyes@cucgov.org, Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-18

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from qualified persons or firms to provide Risk Management and Consultant Services for the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)).

Interested persons or firms are invited to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposals to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 07, 2018.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning August 13, 2018, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Authority at its sole discretion may cancel this RFP if it is deemed in the best interest of the Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

EPA funds CUC Rota project to ensure 24-hour water supply

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is funding a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. project on Rota with a projected cost of $750,000 to ensure that its residents will have consistent access to 24-hour water supply.

Tinger

While Rota already has a 24-hour water supply, the improvements under Phase II project will ensure the reliability of that system, according to EPA's designated project coordinator John Tinger.

In his declaration filed in federal court, Tinger said the Rota project will include system-wide drinking water improvements to replace valves, provide back-up power generators, and install fencing.

Concrete closures would be installed to protect water from contamination, as well as new solar panels and new water lines.

"The project is under development," said Tinger, who is EPA's coordinator for the court order called Stipulated Order No. 1.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization. It requires CUC to have an EPA-approved drinking water and wastewater master plan to determine infrastructure needs and to provide a long-term plan for CUC's drinking water and wastewater system improvements.

ETC CONTRIBUTION
Representatives of the Triple J Group of Companies recently shared an education tax credit contribution with Mount Carmel School. This is the second year in a row that Triple J has made a large ETC contribution to the school. School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero expressed his appreciation to Triple J. "These contributions are a tremendous help to our school and fund two important resources, workbooks for our elementary students and scholarships/financial aid for about a fifth of our student body."
MCS

I believe in the dignity of labor, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living."
- John D. Rockefeller

Happy
LABOR DAY CNMI!

From the Office of
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider and Staff

We salute you on a special day for all the hard work you do and celebrate with joy.

Happy Labor Day!

from the staff and management of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Our new Gilded Age

Average compensation for top U.S. executives exploded to nearly $19 million in 2017, up almost 18 percent from 2016, a new report says. If you don't remember getting an 18 percent raise last year, it's because you probably didn't.

The report by the liberal Economic Policy Institute shows that typical wages remained virtually unchanged during that time. This has driven the pay difference between people at the top and those who work for them to its widest gap in a decade.

The findings don't encompass the impact of the Republican tax-cut bill passed at the end of 2017, but we know that, after those cuts, wages this year have remained mostly flat when factoring in inflation. Of course they have; corporations are largely using their tax-cut windfalls to buy back their own stock—to the benefit of investors, including those $19 million-a-year chief executives—rather than raiding wages. All indications are that the gap between the top executive pay and everyone else's is going to be widened by tax cuts that proponents touted as good for workers.

The report shows those pay trends were already going in the wrong direction even before this budget-busting, economically unnecessary gift to the rich was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump. It adds to the long list of reasons to halt reckless administration policies that would further reward the already-rich while throwing the economy further out of balance.

The report examined the salaries, bonuses, realized stock options and other compensation for top CEOs of the 350 largest firms in the country. It found they received, on average, $18.9 million each in compensation in 2017, a 17.6 percent rise from 2016. Typical workers' compensation, meanwhile, rose by a virtually meaningless 0.3 percent.

That translates into a 312-to-1 ratio of pay between CEOs and workers. It's not the highest gap ever—that would be the 344-to-1 peak of 2000—but compared to ratios like those in 1965 (20-to-1), 1978 (30-to-1) and 1989 (58-to-1), it's clear how off-the-rails we've gone in this, our new Gilded Age.

Again, the report's numbers don't even take into account the further widening of that gap expected from the tax-cut package. So it's especially egregious for the administration to float ideas like it did last month, to index capital gains taxes to inflation—a roundabout way of giving yet another tax break to the investor class at the expense of everyone else.

The idea was so roundly trashed that we've not heard anything more about it, but keep an eye out. The Trump administration is on a clear mission to boost wealth for the wealthy and further widen income gaps that all in Washington should be working to narrow.

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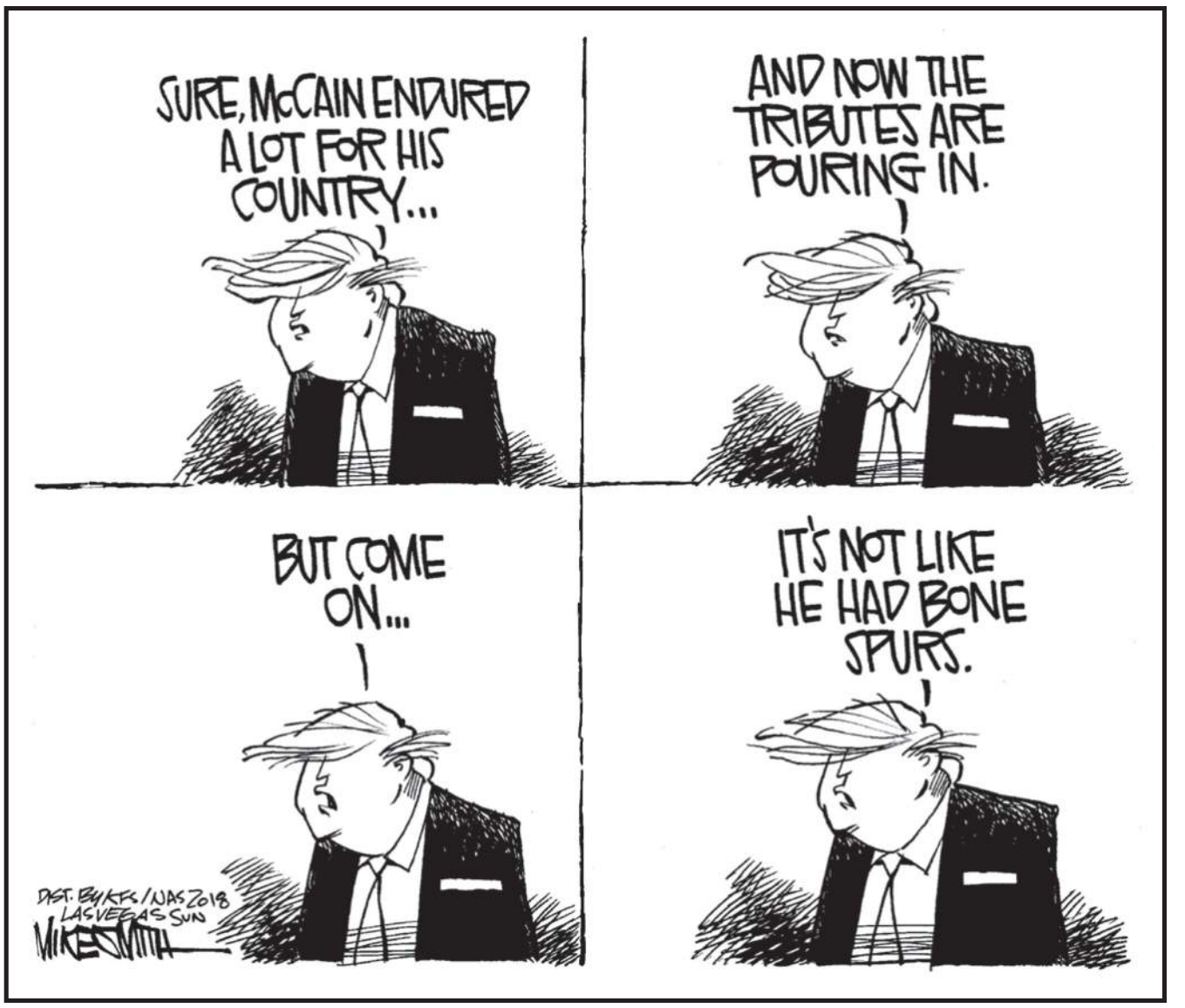
SURE, McCAIN ENDURED A LOT FOR HIS COUNTRY...
AND NOW THE TRIBUTES ARE POURING IN.
BUT COME ON...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAD BONE SPURS.
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MIKE SMITH

Celebrating the work of my grandfathers

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? *and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.*

I celebrate Labor Day for my grandfathers, one of whom sold hardware to trappers and traders in northern Quebec and the other who worked in sulfur mines of Sicily. Sulfur is the same thing as brimstone, which, as you might recall from the Bible, is an element associated with deep unpleasantness. Is it a surprise that my paternal grandfather headed for Ellis Island? Even the Lower East Side had to be better than hell. We're made from ice, fire and ash—and we're survivors. We're the working class.

My grandmothers did tailoring and piecework in addition to raising hundreds—OK, lots—of children. Don't you think that having eight and nine children, respectively, in days when you boiled diapers, put them through a wringer and pinned them on a line over the air shaft or in a damp tenement basement felt like you were raising the multitudes?

And those multitudes needed to be fed. If you were my grandmothers, you'd be doing the feeding: pea soup for the Tadoussac, Quebec, crowd and pasta with bread crumbs for the gang in Brooklyn, N.Y. Kids from even poorer families were welcome and, along with everybody else, made a grab when the big bowl of food was passed around.

The idea was for the kids to get jobs and then help out. Both my parents left school after the eighth grade and worked full time. Far more educated than their virtually illiterate mothers and fathers, they wanted my brother and me to surpass them.

They wanted us to get jobs with regular paychecks and regular hours, run by regular people. They wanted us to have the kind of jobs where you took a shower before you left for work rather than as soon as you got home.

Given my heritage, you'll not be surprised that I find the popular adage "Love what you do and you'll never work a day in your life" misleading.

I really like my job, but that doesn't mean that it's play. I have business to transact and, in effect, so do my students. The ones who pass my class take their work as seriously as they'd take any professional assignment. I don't miss class, and neither do my students. I don't show up late, and neither do my students. I submit my work on time and so do my students.

One of the major distinctions between work and play is that attendance is mandatory, according to my Facebook friend Ava Biffer, and that you are required to participate. She's right; even in creative work—writing these columns, for example—there are deadlines and specific requirements. If I don't meet them, watch me be replaced by a recipe for pea soup.

As my Facebook pal Dan Savino suggests, the possibility that our vocations could be the same as our vacations tempts us. But the two words emerge from very different places: "Vacation" comes from the Latin term "vacare," meaning "unoccupied," whereas "vocation" comes from the Latin term "vox," which means voice or calling.

Play is what you do when you're otherwise not occupied. It's why we can play with abandon.

We're called to our work from something outside ourselves, whether it's money, inspiration or the need to be of service. (To paint a house, for example, as my Dad painted ours every Labor Day because he had the day "off.") We try to stay within guidelines even if, as we become more skilled and talented, we add occasional flourishes.

Taking pleasure in our occupation does not, however, make it play.

According to former-student-turned-principal Angela Staron,? "Work has a clear, objective, extrinsic purpose; play has no obligatory requirements." Denise de Ribert adds a distinction between work and play by arguing that work always "involves a boss, client, customer, reader" so that "even if the task is solitary, there is an exchange of labor." In contrast, play can be entirely self-contained since you have no one to please but yourself.?

Acknowledging that we must play is another reason Labor Day matters: As Kristine Johnson Mothersele points out, "If you don't work, you don't earn money. If you don't play, you just get sad."

Here's to being happy and productive—and to celebrating Labor Day.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

McCain's example is too seldom followed

Sen. John McCain was extraordinary and stood tall, and the American people are standing tall in their recognition of who and what he was.

We still appreciate self-sacrificing, patriotic war heroes. We like politicians who are honest, who put what's right over what's politically advantageous, who know how to compromise, who want the legislative branch to quit kowtowing to the executive, who are expert in such areas as the military and who fight for reputable old standards of all kinds. The failure of too many others to live up to McCain's integrity, dignity and honor just may have lent something to the special embrace of McCain on the occasion of his passing, or so it seems to me.

An obvious example of those others is our president, someone who belittled McCain during the 2016 presidential campaign.

While praising Russian President Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump treated McCain's captivity in Vietnam as a disgrace despite his striking acts of courage in the worst of circumstances. Trump has taken swipes at McCain since then and initially treated his death as nothing much. But it is not just Trump whose behavior is at odds with McCain's gallantry. It is also a long list of politicians including Democrats who publicly mourned as he departed a scene where he was desperately needed.

Beyond that, all sorts of institutions are saying, hey, you know, we've had it with traditionalist ideas of right and wrong in these frightening times and we're going to betray precious principles to save what they accomplished. I am thinking especially of The New York Times, a newspaper long considered just maybe America's best and still blessed with brains and talent aplenty along with deep and wide-ranging news accounts. It seems particularly appropriate to visit this throne room because of all the talk lately about fake news, the vigorous response and the Times (along with the Washington Post) once sensationally evading press norms in a swipe at McCain.

This was in 2008, before the moment's mania but still a time when ethical prohibitions were being repealed. There was a presidential campaign going on. It was in its primary phase. The Times decided the hour had come to disclose a great sex rumor – identifying it as a rumor – that McCain, a Republican candidate, was having an extramarital affair with a much younger lobbyist.

This was against every journalism rule in the book. Unless newspapers have firm evidence to back them up, they do not print rumors that, in the case of big-name politicians, happen to be easier to find than water at a water fountain. This particular rumor came from anonymous sources who themselves admitted they were just speculating. All of this helped make a case of McCain being caught up in conflicts of interest. The National Enquirer no doubt hated the competition.

The most striking, overall disappointment about the Times today is its divorce from objectivity. The way you best serve readers and keep your credibility as an unbiased, truthful purveyor of news, it was once believed, was to reserve opinions for opinion pages and keep them out of news accounts.

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

This has been changing with the argument that strict objectivity can get in the way of truth and is impossible anyway, but the issue is something else: adhering to simple, straightforward rules that keep subjective bias from taking charge. The Times now gives us a front page that is actually an editorial page on which virtually every story makes a case for an arguable, generally leftist point of view.

McCain was not perfect, any more than the rest of us, and early in his Senate career seemed to have gone out of his way to help a campaign donor being investigated by government regulators. He apologized and ever afterward worked especially hard to limit special interest influences. In other words, this exceptional man aimed to rectify his mistakes. It would be nice if Trump, other politicians in Washington and The New York Times would do the same.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks, senators

I am sure I speak for thousands of people who were glad to hear that the Senate has expeditiously passed the cannabis bill. We are only one step away from joining other states in America who came to the realization that legalization is truly in the best interest of all citizens and the state. States that have legalized marijuana have significantly increased the revenues for their government, with only isolated incidents of adverse effects on society. To the six senators who did vote and passed the bill, kudos to you; to the senators who abstained—which was really a no vote—one can only wonder. But for me, if you truly cared enough for the sick people in the CNMI, you would have been more tolerant to allow recreational use just so the sick could have access. Instead, you voted against sick people getting help when you claim to care so much about them. You didn't care enough as people are living and dying in pain and there is no excuse when 43 states have some form of legal marijuana.

The pressure is now on the governor to sign the bill into law and I'm sure the governor is up to the challenge as he told Guam's governor that the CNMI would beat Guam to the implementation of legal marijuana for all purposes. The governor may have some concerns but I'm hopeful that none of his concerns will be a deal-breaker. There is also a need for a "companion bill," which Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero has already offered to sponsor, so it is vital that the governor sign the bill to give the representative time to file and process the bill before the year ends. The companion bill will be key to getting the two industries (cannabis tourism and hemp) started, so we still have ways to go before opening the doors of dispensaries. The great thing that citizens should know is that, once the governor signs the bill, you will be free to cultivate your own marijuana in accordance with the laws stated in H.B. 20 -178, so read the law, which will be available on the government's website. Local growers are urged to start developing your strains through "cloning" as the cannabis tourism industry will be depending upon you to get started!

Thanking you again, senators, as you have done your job and got the bill to the governor's desk and we can't ask anymore of you. You have indeed done your part to try and make it rain a better life for the sick and even the overall prosperity and quality of life in the CNMI!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

'Think about everyone's future'

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony the author submitted at the CNMI Lottery Commission meeting last week.

Today I would like to share and remind all of you what we went through years back and how it is today and I am confident that we will unite to work together to find ways to strengthen our lives and that of our children and their future.

When I was working for the government years ago, I was in a department that was collecting a lot for our revenue. We didn't really feel the decline of the tourist industry at that time because the garment industry was bringing in a lot of money.

When the garment industry closed their doors, I could see the ship we were sailing was about to sink. To make it simple, we were receiving hundreds months before and then, in just days, only 20s or 30s went into the revenue account. Our economy was suffering and life was hard. Working hours were cut, the price of goods went up, the price of fuel, water and power was increased, and we were having power rations.

It was scary to go to the hospital because if there was no doctor, there was no money to see a doctor or pay for medications. Even my husband, who needed to be referred, was denied because there was no money and was told to wait for a specialist who was going to come to the islands. He died never seeing that specialist.

Our people were miserable and depressed because not only did they cut hours and raised the cost of living, they cut the retirement and survivors benefit by 25 percent. Even if 25 percent was just a little, life was hard. Even when I was working I could barely make it. Just imagine those that were dependent only on their benefits, were getting paid so low and had a big family, and had nowhere or no one to turn to. All of us here, you and me, we were all in that situation. If we did not run to the U.S. to find a better life, we stayed back and struggled to make ends meet for our families.

And then the casino was brought to Saipan.

It is true that not all of us were happy about it, but what could we have done if this was the only way to revive our economy?

And it is true that when the casino came in and the money started to pour in, it was like a heavy rock was lifted from my shoulders.

Work hours were reinstated; the price of gas, power and water slightly decreased; with retirement, the 25 percent was reimbursed, reinstated; and on top of that, bonuses were given.

Not only did the casino open up job opportunities, there were job vacancies all over Saipan.

Today I work for Imperial Pacific International, (CNMI) LLC, popularly known as Best Sunshine. I don't get paid that much but the benefits are good, especially a health insurance I can afford. Now I can go get checked at the hospital and change my glasses as often as I need to. A life of a single parent with a big family has become comfortable.

Today, I am here as a widow and a single parent and, on behalf of all those who have lost their spouses and their livelihood depend on survivor's benefits, our lives are in your hands.

Think about where we are going to turn to if we do not let this company finish what they have begun. Who would be brave enough to take the risk to face all these challenges?

Open your eyes and see that even with all the problems and criticisms, they are still struggling to keep the pillars of their huts up and the sails of their canoe because it is not only for their benefit but also ours.

What is so bad about receiving some today and then some tomorrow, and then, when their pail starts spilling over, they can give back to us, like what is happening today. Whatever we have today, it is all being distributed for the benefit of the whole CNMI.

I humbly ask you to open your minds and remember how it was years ago and how it is today.

I humbly ask you, to remember the lives that are going to be affected by the decisions you make today.

I humbly ask you to approve the request of this company because…

Right now I am nervous to think about it—if they will just give up, just pack up and leave and then we all look confused, crouch around, then blame each other or find who to blame.

Before I end, I just want to share with you all: "In every journey there will be times where we encounter rough seas, we don't give up and sink our ship and there is no time to argue and complain; we flip our canoe and wait for the sea to calm, flip it back up and continue our journey till we reach our destination."

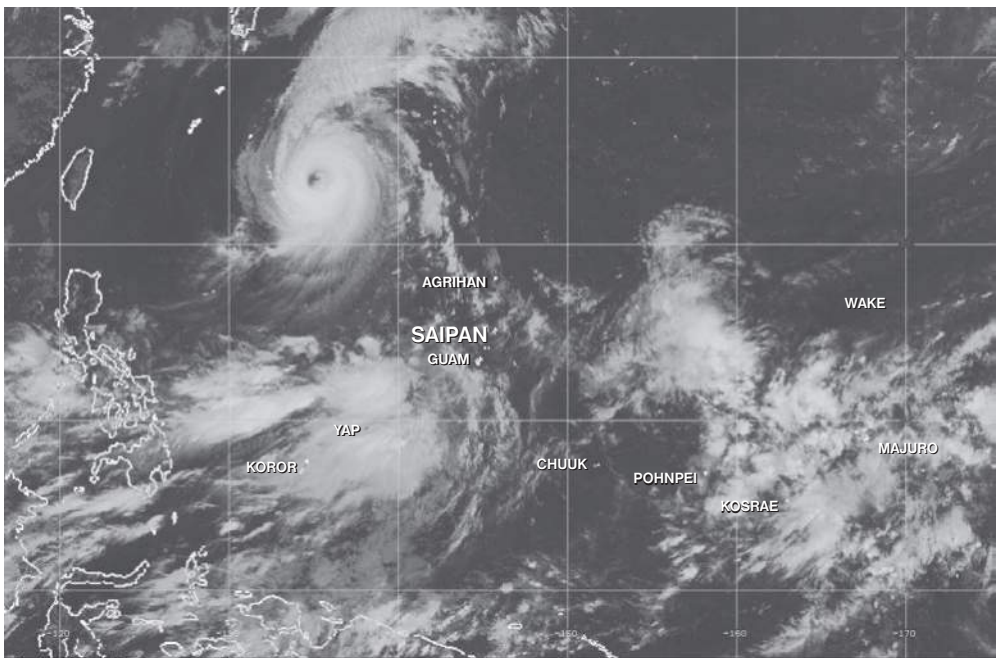
Vivian Nogis
Chalan Lau Lau, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:36 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trough extends northwest-southeast through the Marianas at Rota, dividing gentle southwest winds south of the trough from moderate southeast winds north of it. Radar shows only isolated showers, with scattered showers southeast of the marine zones. Combined seas are 5 to 7 feet, dominated by northwest swell from Super Typhoon Jebi about 750 miles northwest of the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Sunny	88° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	63° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 77°
Paris	Thunderstorm	81° / 59°
Busan	Rain	84° / 79°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	90° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:02 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.79
7:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.15
2:06 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
7:21 PM	LOW TIDE	1.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:25 PM	-
Tuesday	12:11 AM	1:24 PM	-
Wednesday	1:07 AM	2:24 PM	-
Thursday	2:07 AM	3:24 PM	-
Friday	3:09 AM	4:22 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

COMPACT IMPACT SURVEY
The Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Census Bureau did a presentation at the CNMI Legislature Thursday last week on how they will conduct the Compact impact survey in the CNMI. From left: Sen. Sixto Igisomar, Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez, Rep. Donald C. Barcinas, House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, Demographic and Economic Studies Branch Population Division chief Loraine A. West, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, CNMI field representative OIC Harry C. Blanco, and Sen. Justo Quitugua. BEA CABRERA

Pacific Rim: No US workers were laid off

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Rim president Keith Stewart spoke out Thursday last week against many rumors about its contract with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, saying that the things being said about the subject are not true and some are mere speculations.

There have been media reports in regional newspapers that they had "laid off" their laborers working on the IPI construction site of the Imperial Pacific Resort while hiring foreign workers under the H-2B visa category, referencing CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) privilege statement a few weeks ago.

"The people don't understand what's going on and the article that came out is not true," said Stewart. "We have not gone and laid off any of our workers. We simply furloughed them. Our intention is to bring them back once we finalize the agreements. Unfortunately, several sources had picked it up and tried to head down different directions with that information or did not have the correct facts of what was going on."

Sablan's statement in the U.S. congressional record implied that Pacific Rim laid off its U.S. eligible workers and replaced them with foreign laborers under the H-2B visa.

Stewart and Pacific Rim legal counsel Colin Thompson said all of their workers from the CNMI and Guam are all U.S. eligible, with approximately 80 to 90 being hired locally. "Since we're a Guam-based company, we also brought some of our workers here. We furloughed some [Guam workers included] and they went back to Guam. All of our workers are U.S. and legal," Stewart said.

He pointed out that they anticipated the furlough of their workers, which started in late July, would only be a week as they renegotiate their contract with IPI. "It was Tuesday night [July 24] that we went and we asked to furlough workers. The intent was for a short period of time."

"The idea and intention at that point is to…renegotiate the contract. We had issued a lump sum proposal, for performing portions of the work. We also had a construction management proposal and we're working on what needs to come together."

Thompson added that they have yet to finalize the contract. "[But] all of them [Pacific Rim workers] are U.S. and [some are] from Guam."

"We anticipated [furlough] it to be a week initially but the contract hasn't been completed yet. As indicated [Wednesday] that maybe this week [but] we're going to complete them very soon."

Stewart and Thompson added that they haven't laid off anyone of their workers, as they would return to the construction site once the new contract is finalized and signed by both parties.

"We're just going to put them back to work. We haven't laid off anybody. We're going through contract clarification with [IPI]. [IPI] asked us to stop work until we got through the negotiations. We never laid them off."

Thompson added: "That article also seem to say that Pacific Rim hired a lot of foreign workers under H-2B [visas] and that is also inaccurate. It is not true, all or 100 percent of the workers at Pacific Rim are from Guam and Saipan."

Stewart said a total of 400 of their U.S. workers were affected by the furlough and they have no intention of laying them off so they could hire laborers under the H-2B visa category.

He added that they are going through a transition phase with terms of payment as part of the negotiations. "We didn't mind waiting because we're waiting for payment. So it made sense at that time to go through that step. What's in effect now for several weeks is working through this process. I think we're close to resolving a number of portions of that [contract]."

IPI senior vice president for special projects Viola Alepuyo said they rely on the report given to them by their experts, including Pacific Rim, which said that two years is enough time for them to complete the project. "I'm not a construction expert. So I would not know. I have to rely on them."

IPI asked the CNMI Lottery Commission for an extension on its Aug. 31, 2018, date of completion deadline. That request was approved Friday; the new deadline is now Feb. 28, 2021.

Alepuyo said certain factors should be taken into consideration why the multi-million dollar project encountered delays, aside from worker-related issues. "Just to be safe, we just had a typhoon, and there are two more that's coming. Based on Pacific Rim, they can finish the project in two years."

"If it rains or [if there's] a typhoon, those cranes can't move if the winds are strong. [Sometimes] it doesn't have to be a full typhoon that's coming our way. If there's a high wind advisory, people don't know that."

She added that the need to get a U.S. construction company also became an issue. "In the best-case scenario, a project developer would hire a construction company and that construction company would go and hire all of its workers. In this situation, we were under the timeline pursuant to this license agreement. We could not find a construction company to come on board and take over the project. That process took almost a year. The contract with Pacific Rim was signed in February 2018."

Alepuyo said IPI, in order to move forward with the construction project, had to petitions foreign workers under the H-2B visa category. "So you're hearing a lot of contract modification discussions and that's part of the reasons, because IPI had no choice but to get the needed workforce that was necessary to complete the project as well as to find a U.S. construction company."

Bordallo joins McCain commemoration

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) joined congressional leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives last Friday for a national commemoration in honor of U.S. Sen. John McCain, who passed away on Aug. 25, 2018.

McCain laid in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, an honor reserved for the nation's most eminent citizens.

"John McCain was a patriot and an American hero who dedicated his life to our country. While we had our differences on war claims for the people of Guam, I respected his service to our military, his constituents in Arizona, and the nation as a whole," said Bordallo. "I had an opportunity to meet Sen. McCain during a congressional delegation to Vietnam, and see firsthand where he was held as a prisoner of war. He sacrificed much for our country, and I was grateful to join in honoring his memory today in the U.S. Capitol. I extend my condolences to his wife, Cindy, and the entire McCain family. May he rest in peace." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCC monthly meeting on Thursday

The monthly meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for Sept. 5, 2018, at Kanoa Resort.

Guest speakers will be Alex A. Sablan of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., where he will share some important updates; Arielle Buyum, executive director of Latte Training Academy, who will provide updates on the classes held through the CW program funding that they were included under for the first time in 2018; an updates on the Junior Achievement Program Advisory Council.

Lunch will begin at 11:30am and the meeting will follow promptly at 12pm. For reservations of six or more, call (670) 234-7150.

The Chamber office will be closed today, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day. ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 5 and 6, from 3pm to 11pm.

The military will also conduct training at the Island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 4, from 11am to 2pm
- Sept. 5, from 11am to 2pm
- Sept. 9, from 12:01am to 11:55pm

It is recommended that the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

Go on a sailing tour aboard *Okeanos Marianas*

Okeanos Marianas, the CNMI's 50-foot traditional sailing canoe, will be providing sailing tours within the Saipan lagoon to residents throughout the month of September in celebration of Heritage Month. Tours start at Smiling Cove Marina at 10am and 5pm and feature marine life in and around the Saipan Harbor, as well as talks on traditional navigation and seafaring culture. For more information and reservations, call 234-6265 or visit and leave a message on the Okeanos Marianas Facebook site.

Unresponsive person found on UOG campus

University of Guam security found an unresponsive individual Sunday morning around 8am in the parking lot between the RFK Memorial Library and the Computer Center. The individual has been identified as Angel Crisostomo Petros, a multimedia technician at the RFK Memorial Library. Petros passed away yesterday morning. His immediate family has been notified.

The university is cooperating with GPD's ongoing investigation.

Petros joined the university in 1995 and was named employee of the year in 2006 for technical, professional (non-faculty) and paraprofessional personnel.

"This is a trying time for our university community. We are in shock and saddened," said UOG president Thomas Krise. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Angel's family and loved ones."

UOG's Isa Psychological Services Center will be offering counseling and support to anyone needing services beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 4. ***(UOG)***

BankGuam declares Q3 dividends

BankGuam Holding Co. announced Friday that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 5.5 percent fixed rate/floating rate noncumulative preferred stock, Series A, at its board's regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 27, 2018. The dividends will be paid on Sept. 28, 2018, to shareholders of record as of Sept. 14, 2018. ***(PR)***

Business

Trump: Canada 'will be out' of trade deal unless it's 'fair'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump warned Canada on Saturday that it "will be out" of a revised North American trade agreement unless it's "fair" to the United States, and he threatened to scrap the current deal should Congress "interfere" with the negotiations.

"There is no political necessity to keep Canada in the new NAFTA deal," Trump said in one of a series of tweets as he visited his Virginia golf club while three former presidents and a range of political dignitaries attended a Washington memorial for John McCain. Trump wasn't invited.

But it's not clear whether the Trump administration has the authority to strike a deal with just Mexico, as it announced Monday, and exclude Canada. Also, Congress must approve any rewrite of the North American Free Trade Agreement , signed under President Bill Clinton, and might refuse to endorse a deal that leaves longtime ally Canada on the sidelines.

Talks to keep Canada in the trade bloc are to resume this coming week as Washington and Ottawa try to break a deadlock over issues such as Canada's dairy market and U.S. efforts to shield drug companies from generic competition.

AP

Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland speaks during a news conference at the Canadian Embassy after talks at the Office of the United States Trade Representative, in Washington, Friday, Aug. 31, 2018.

"As we've said all week, we're working toward a modernized NAFTA that is good for the middle class and people working hard to join it," said Adam Austen, a spokesman for Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland. "With good will and flexibility on all sides, a win-win-win outcome is achievable. Canada, of course, will only sign a deal which is good for Canada."

Trump notified Congress on Friday that he plans to sign an agreement in 90 days with Mexico to replace NAFTA and hopes Canada can brought on board, too. Congress would have to approve any agreement.

"There is no political necessity to keep Canada in the new NAFTA deal. If we don't make a fair deal for the U.S. after decades of abuse, Canada will be out," Trump tweeted. "Congress should not interfere w/ these negotiations or I will simply terminate NAFTA entirely & we will be far better off..."

Earlier, he said he loved Canada, but says "they've taken advantage of our Country for many years!"

A U.S.-Mexico deal sealed on Monday excluded Canada. Freeland then hurried to Washington for talks aimed at preserving Canada's membership in the regional trade agreement.

But Freeland couldn't break an impasse in four days of negotiations with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. American and Canadian negotiators will return to negotiations Wednesday.

The talks had taken an odd turn for the worse Friday over news that Trump had told Bloomberg News that he wasn't willing to make any concessions to Canada.

The 24-year-old NAFTA tore down most trade barriers dividing the United States, Mexico and Canada. Trade between the three countries surged. But many manufacturers responded to the agreement by moving factories south of the border to take advantage of low Mexican wages, then shipping goods north to the United States and Canada.

Trump has charged that the deal wiped out American factory jobs. He has pledged to negotiate a better deal or withdraw from NAFTA altogether. Talks on a new trade deal started a year ago but bogged down over U.S. demands, including some meant to return manufacturing to the United States.

China-Africa trade deficit prominent at conference

BEIJING (AP)—African leaders will likely press their Chinese hosts at a conference this week to help narrow their trade deficits with Beijing by shifting more manufacturing to their continent, the chief executive of the biggest African bank said.

China has passed Europe and the United States as the biggest trading partner of most African countries. Most run large deficits with Beijing, exporting minerals and buying Chinese manufactured goods.

"The question of the trade imbalance is one that I think will be placed firmly on the table by the African delegates," the chief executive of South Africa's Standard Bank Group, Sim Tshabalala, told reporters.

China's commercial presence in Africa has prompted complaints in some countries that the continent gets too little from the relationship. Africa is a major target of Beijing's "Belt and Road" initiative to build ports, highways and other trade-related infrastructure, but some critics in Tanzania, Kenya and other countries say they leave hosts with too much debt.

"I would expect African leaders to put on the table the opportunity that arises from building the African continent's manufacturing capability in a way that is in the best interests of the African continent but benefits china as well," Tshabalala said Saturday.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, opening Monday, brings together leaders from China and more than 50 African countries. Dozens of African leaders have met with Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of the conference.

The participants are looking for ways to "advance common growth and development," said South Africa's foreign minister, Lindiwe Sisulu.

Some Chinese manufacturers are expanding to Africa but the bulk of Chinese investment goes into mining or construction of roads and other infrastructure. A state-owned automaker, BAIC Group, announced plans this year to start producing electric cars in South Africa.

As Chinese manufacturers move to making higher-value products, "the slack that is produced as a consequence can be taken up by African economies," according to Tshabalala.

Standard Bank represents the biggest Chinese investment in Africa to date, after state-owned Industrial and Commerce Bank of China Ltd. agreed in 2007 to buy 20 percent of the African lender for $5.5 billion. Since then, the two banks say they have collaborated on channeling billions of dollars of Chinese investment into Africa.

Some 300 companies account for the majority of China's business activity in Africa, but the region also has some 30,000 smaller Chinese firms that are of growing importance, said Francois Gamet, head of Standard Bank Group's Asian operation.

Asked about concerns over Africa's rising debts to China, the banks said those still are relatively small and most countries can repay them.

"The reality is that Chinese debt as a percentage of total African debt is still relatively small," said Kenny Fihla, Standard Bank's chief executive for corporate banking.

Governments in the region have "fiscal discipline," said Tshabalala.

"Wars, pestilence, violence and conflict have declined," he said. "We are quite comfortable that most of these countries have both the ability and the willingness to meet their obligations."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Caffeine hit for Coca-Cola as it buys Costa coffee chain

LONDON (AP)—Coca-Cola is hoping for a caffeine-fueled boost with the acquisition of British coffee chain Costa. The soda giant said Friday it is spending 3.9 billion pounds ($5.1 billion) in cash for Britain's biggest coffee company. Costa has more than 2,400 coffee shops in the U.K. and 1,400 others in more than 30 countries, including around 460 in China, its second-biggest market. It's Coca-Cola's latest move to diversify as health-conscious consumers, at least in America, move away from traditional soda. The company also recently said it's buying a stake in sports drink maker BodyArmor. Coca-Cola's other investments in recent years have included milk that is strained to have more protein and a push into sparkling water. Rival PepsiCo, meanwhile, recently bought carbonated drink maker SodaStream, which produces machines that allow people to make fizzy drinks in their own homes.

California approves measure to pass on wildfire costs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The California Legislature voted Friday to allow power companies to raise electric bills to cover the cost of lawsuits from last year's deadly wildfires amid fears that Pacific Gas & Electric Co., would otherwise face financial ruin.

The measure is part of a wide-ranging plan to reduce the threat of wildfires, which have killed dozens of people and destroyed thousands of homes in recent years. Consumer advocates and large energy users blasted legislation they say is a bailout for PG&E, which expects to pay billions of dollars due to fires started by the company's equipment in Northern California last year. The company would be allowed to charge their customers even if the fires are linked to mismanagement by the company. "Everybody's getting protected, but customers," said Michael Boccadoro, executive director of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association. "Utility shareholders are protected. Trial attorneys are protected. Insurers are protected. Victims are protected. Labor's protected. Unfortunately, they forgot to protect customers."

Kansas City mayor hopes hotel boom will attract events

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kansas City's mayor says he hopes a hotel boom that's happening in the area will make the city an appealing candidate to host big events. Visit KC estimates that more than 15 hotels are opening in the area by the end of the 2020, the Kansas City Star reported . The area has seen one to three hotels open each year since 2012, according to data from Visit KC. Five properties have opened or will open this year. The extended-stay hotels, boutiques and high-end facilities will add more than 450 rooms in the area. Kansas City Mayor Sly James hopes the expanded accommodation options will help the city land conventions and tournaments that could bring out-of-town spending into the local economy. The city was considered to host the 2016 Republican National Convention but was ultimately eliminated from the running because of a lack of rooms, James said.

Nation

Will Russian hackers affect this year's US election?

AP

This combination of 2017-2018 photos shows from left, a Facebook posting from a group named "Being Patriotic" attributed to Russian agents by the U.S. House Intelligence Committee, Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri whose campaign was targeted by Russian hackers and voting machines in Chicago after hackers found a way into the voter registration database at the Illinois State Board of Elections in mid-2016.

Nearly a year after Russian government hackers meddled in the 2016 U.S. election, researchers at cybersecurity firm Trend Micro zeroed in on a new sign of trouble: a group of suspect websites.

The sites mimicked a portal used by U.S. senators and their staffs, with easy-to-miss discrepancies. Emails to Senate users urged them to reset their passwords—an apparent attempt to steal them.

Once again, hackers on the outside of the American political system were probing for a way in.

"Their attack methods continue to take advantage of human nature and when you get into an election cycle the targets are very public ," said Mark Nunnikhoven, vice president of cloud research at Trend Micro.

Now the U.S. has entered a new election cycle. And the attempt to infiltrate the Senate network, linked to hackers aligned with Russia and brought to public attention in July, is a reminder of the risks, and the difficulty of assessing them.

Newly reported attempts at infiltration and social media manipulation—which Moscow officially denies—point to Russia's continued interest in meddling in U.S. politics. There is no clear evidence, experts said, of efforts by the Kremlin specifically designed to disrupt elections in November. But it wouldn't take much to cause turmoil.

"It's not a question of whether somebody is going to try to breach the system, to manipulate the system, to influence the system," said Robby Mook, who managed Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and co-directs a Harvard University project to protect democracy from cyberattacks, in an interview earlier this year. "The question is: Are we prepared for it?"

Online targeting of the U.S. political system has come on three fronts—efforts to get inside political campaigns and institutions and expose damaging information; probes of electoral systems, potentially to alter voter data and results; and fake ads and accounts on social media used to spread disinformation and fan divisions among Americans.

In recent weeks, Microsoft reported that it had disabled six Russian-launched websites masquerading as U.S. think tanks and Senate sites. Facebook and the security firm FireEye revealed influence campaigns , originating in Iran and Russia, that led the social network to remove 652 impostor accounts, some targeted at Americans. The office of Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania said hackers tied to a "nation-state" had sent phishing emails to old campaign email accounts.

U.S. officials said they have not detected any attempts to corrupt election systems or leak information rivaling Kremlin hacking before President Donald Trump's surprise 2016 victory.

Still, "we fully realize that we are just one click away of the keyboard from a similar situation repeating itself," Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence, said in July.

Michael McFaul, the architect of the Obama administration's Russia policy, has said he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin perceives little benefit in a major disruption effort this year, preferring to keep his powder dry for the 2020 presidential contest.

But even if the upcoming elections escape disruption, that hardly means the U.S. is in the clear .

Trump's decision in May to eliminate the post of White House cybersecurity coordinator confirmed his lack of interest in countering Russian meddling, critics say. Congress has not delivered any legislation to combat election interference or disinformation. Last week, a review of the bipartisan "Secure Elections Act" was canceled after Republican leaders registered objections, congressional staffers said.

The risks extend beyond the midterms.

"The biggest question is going to be how are you going to make sure that people actually trust the results, because democracy relies on credibility," said Ben Nimmo, a researcher at the Atlantic Council. "It's not over after November."

Experts said it is too late to safeguard U.S. voting systems and campaigns this election cycle. But with two months to go, there is time enough to take stock of the Russian-sponsored interference that has come to light so far—and to assess the risks of what we don't know.

In mid-2016, hackers found a way into the voter registration database at the Illinois State Board of Elections and spent three weeks poking around. After the breach was discovered, officials said the infiltrators had downloaded the records of up to 90,000 voters.

It's not clear that anything nefarious was done with those records. But when special counsel Robert Mueller charged a dozen Russian intelligence agents with hacking this July, the indictment clarified the potential for damage. The hackers had, in fact, stolen information on 500,000 voters, including dates of birth and partial Social Security numbers.

"The internet allows foreign adversaries to attack Americans in new and unexpected ways," Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said, in announcing the indictments.

The Illinois hack is the most notable case of foreign tampering with U.S. election systems to come to light. There has been no evidence of efforts to change voter information or tamper with voting machines, though experts caution hackers might have planted unseen malware in far-flung election systems that could be triggered later.

Potential problems are not limited to Illinois.

A week before the 2016 general election, Russian intelligence agents sent spear-phishing emails to 122 local elections officials who were customers of VR Systems, a Tallahassee, Florida-based election software vendor.

In addition to Illinois, at least 20 other state systems were probed by the same Russian military unit that targeted VR's customers, federal officials said.

"My unofficial opinion is that we're kind of fooling ourselves if we don't think that they tried to at least make a pass at all 50 states," said Christopher Krebs, the undersecretary for critical infrastructure at DHS.

In June 2017, the federal Election Assistance Commission informed dozens of local voting officials that hackers had attempted to penetrate the systems of a voting system manufacturer, presumed by many to be VR.

"Attempts have been made to obtain voting equipment, security information and in general to probe for vulnerabilities," the EAC wrote officials. Despite those concerns, federal officials have moved slowly to share intelligence with officials who supervise elections. As of mid-August, 92 state officials had been given clearances.

ACROSS THE NATION

Amber Alert issued for boys, father after Phoenix killings

PHOENIX (AP)—An Amber Alert was issued Saturday for two young brothers and their biological father missing since the boys' mother and a male housemate were found fatally shot in the Phoenix home where police said the victims and boys lived. The alert said 47-year-old Dimas Coronado may have fled to Mexico with the boys, but Sgt. Armando Carbajal, a police spokesman, said investigators had no firm indication of the whereabouts of Coronado or the boys. Police say they want to talk to Coronado about the case but he hasn't been charged. Police say Coronado's 2009 white Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck was found unoccupied about six blocks from the home where the shooting occurred. There were no signs of him or the boys. On Saturday night, authorities said they are now looking for an older model light green Ford pickup truck with a white camper. The truck has a Mexican plate of ZUD-71-64. It's not known from which state in Mexico the license plate was issued.

Lawsuit: Surgeon left needle inside patient, who later died

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The family of a Tennessee man who died shortly after a surgeon left a needle inside his chest cavity has sued the hospital. The Tennessean reports 73-year-old John Burns Johnson had open heart surgery at TriStar Centennial Hospital on May 2017. After about nine hours of surgery, a surgeon closed his chest only to discover one of his needles was missing. An X-ray revealed it was inside Johnson. The surgeon then tried to retrieve the needle but was unsuccessful. Johnson died about a month after the surgery. The lawsuit says Johnson's health deteriorated and described his death as "painful, unnecessary and wrongful." The hospital released a statement saying it would not respond to the lawsuit's claims, but noted it is serious about caring for patients and empathizes with the family.

2 die in Colorado shooting that left police officer injured

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—Police say two people have died after being shot in a Denver suburb at the start of a gunbattle that also injured a police officer and a person suspected of that shooting. Aurora police said Saturday that the men who died and the officer were shot Friday evening near the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Police said officers were investigating a reported fight when they heard gunshots. They found several people, including a juvenile, had been hurt. The department said another person then fired at police. The wounded officer has been released from the hospital. The suspect and a juvenile who were injured remained at hospitals. No information has been released on their conditions or on the identities of those involved, including the officer.

Asia

Hope and caution in N. Korea as Kim Jong Un shifts gears

MOUNT CHILBO, North Korea (AP)—Tanned and wearing a swimsuit, So Myong Il walks to the barbecue pit and throws on some clams.

He obviously loves the beach he's on as well as the rugged, emerald Chilbo mountains that rise abruptly behind it. He loves them enough to forget, for a moment at least, that he is a senior official sent to deliver an ideology-soaked pitch singing their praises and instead lets the natural beauty surrounding him speak for itself.

Comrade So sees great things for North Korean attractions like this.

Hotels, big and small. Tourists from all over the country, maybe the world. "As long as we have the leadership of our respected Marshal," he says, referring to leader Kim Jong Un, "our future will be bright indeed."

So wouldn't think of questioning the leader, but there is a hint of apprehension in his voice. And he isn't alone.

North Korea is pushing ahead with a new strategy of economic development and the intensified diplomacy with China, South Korea and the United States that such a move requires. But hopes for a better future are mixed with concern over potential downsides of political or social volatility, and something that's harder to articulate: a fear of the unknown—even if it appears far more promising than the arduous path the country has been on for decades.

Even before announcing in January that he had sufficiently perfected his nuclear arsenal and could start to focus on other things, Kim has held economic development to be his primary long-term concern.

AP

In this Aug. 20, 2018, photo, a North Korean woman barbecues shell fish along the seashore near Mount Chilbo, North Korea. Mount Chilbo, one of the country's most cherished natural attractions, is gearing up for a future it hopes will include a lot of economic development.

He has allowed markets and entrepreneurialism to flourish and, since succeeding his father as leader seven years ago, has dramatically transformed the skyline of the capital, Pyongyang, with several high-rise districts. The transformation in the east coast city of Wonsan, where Kim has a summer villa, has been almost as spectacular.

As Kim prepares for the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding on Sept. 9, his ambitious development plan is being implemented, from the small-time renovation of town halls to the almost biblical-scale mobilization of "soldier-builders," who are working around the clock to turn the remote northern city of Samjiyon into yet another showcase of Pyongyang-style socialism.

Economic development—and how U.S. capital and know-how could speed it along—was President Donald Trump's big carrot when he met with Kim in Singapore three months ago to try to negotiate a denuclearization deal.

But Kim's diplomatic overtures aren't intended to open the door to American capitalists, a scenario that would make any good party cadre shudder. They are aimed at breaking down support for sanctions and getting the U.S. to step out of the way. Kim's game is to play China and the U.S. off each other, grab whatever concessions he can along the way and adjust his position as the situation evolves.

In the meantime, lest anyone get the wrong idea, the ruling Workers' Party of Korea has begun churning out paeans to socialism in its daily newspaper along with anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism screeds that underscore North Korea's official opposition to essentially anything that might be considered the American way of life. Or, as it's known in the jargon of North Korea's propaganda machine, "the imperialists' bourgeois ideological and cultural poisoning."

The past few months have been tense in Pyongyang.

Restrictions on some of the movements of foreign diplomats have been tightened, for example, and even requests by The Associated Press to interview government officials or to speak with regular citizens have mostly been denied.

Uncertain of where it might all end up, state-run media have provided only limited coverage of Kim's meetings with Trump in June and his multiple summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Reports have portrayed Kim as the consummate statesman, firmly in charge of a carefully considered strategy to make his country safer and more prosperous.

PH tells Filipinos to brace for Malaysian crackdown

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government asked Filipinos in Malaysia on Thursday to brace for a possible crackdown on illegal immigrants in the Southeast Asian country, where it estimates about 400,000 Filipinos live illegally.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said a Malaysian amnesty program for illegal immigrants that began in 2016 ends Thursday and advised Filipinos, especially those without immigration permits, to expect a crackdown as early as Friday.

The Philippine Embassy in Malaysia has helped 5,844 Filipinos without immigration papers since the amnesty was launched in January 2016, the department said in a statement. It added that the number is less than 1 percent of the estimated 400,000 undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia.

"We are reminding our countrymen in Malaysia, particularly those without legal immigration status, that the amnesty program ends today," Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Charles Jose said in the statement.

Jose advised Filipinos who comply with Malaysian immigration requirements "to exercise due prudence and to ensure they carry their legal documents at all times."

The Philippine Embassy "is ready to provide assistance to Filipinos, who may be affected by the intensified immigration operations," Jose said.

The Philippines is a major labor exporter and has faced many migrant labor crises.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte banned the deployment of Filipino workers to Kuwait after the body of a Filipina housemaid was discovered in a freezer in a Kuwaiti home in February, in what he said was the latest in a growing number of deaths and abuse of impoverished Filipina maids in the oil-rich Arab nation.

Kuwait expelled the Filipino ambassador and recalled its envoy to Manila at the height of the diplomatic crisis, which later eased after the governments negotiated a new accord seeking better conditions for Filipino workers.

About a tenth of the more than 100 million Filipinos work and live abroad, many of them to escape poverty and a lack of opportunity at home. The earnings they send home have helped keep the Philippine economy afloat.

Many of the Filipinos in Malaysia have worked on plantations, in business establishments or as maids for decades. Crackdowns against illegal immigrants in Malaysia in the past have led to the deportation of thousands of mostly poor Filipinos, while others have languished in Malaysian jails.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China storm kills 2 people, forces 127,000 to evacuate

BEIJING (AP)—A state news agency says torrential rains in southern China killed at least two people and forced 127,000 to evacuate. The Xinhua News Agency said Saturday another two people were missing following the downpour in Guangdong Province, which abuts Hong Kong. Xinhua said damage was estimated at more than 1 billion yuan ($150 million). It said 43 houses were toppled. The agency said authorities have opened more than 1,800 emergency shelters.

Helicopter crashes in northern Afghanistan, killing 3

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says a foreign pilot and two Afghan soldiers were killed when a helicopter contracted by NATO crashed inside an army base. Maj. Hanif Rezaie, an army spokesman, says three others, including another foreign pilot, were wounded when the MI-14 helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff from the base near the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Rezaie says the crash was caused by a technical problem and the helicopter caught fire after it hit the ground. He says there was no enemy fire. Seven other security forces on board the helicopter were rescued. Rezaie was unable to confirm the nationality of the two foreign pilots.

Pakistan temporarily closes consulate in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan temporarily closed its consulate in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad citing "intervention" by the provincial governor and a lack of security, but an Afghan official said Saturday that the issue was a simple misunderstanding and would be resolved shortly. In a letter to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan's embassy in Kabul requested that the governor of Nangarhar province refrain from "interfering" in the functioning of the consulate. The Pakistani mission also requested that Afghan authorities restore security on the premises. It said the consulate will remain closed until security arrangements are completed to the embassy's satisfaction. Sebghatullah Ahmadi, spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, said there was a misunderstanding which caused concern among staff at the Pakistani consulate in Jalalabad. He did not elaborate.

World

Palestinians condemn US ending funding for UN refugee agency

AP

Pierre Krahenbuhl, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), speaks at a press conference in Amman, Jordan, on Thursday Aug. 30, 2018.

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Palestinians on Saturday condemned the U.S. decision to end its decades of funding for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, calling it an attack on the Palestinian people and accusing the Trump administration of trying to remove sensitive core issues from the negotiating table as it says it is preparing a Mideast peace initiative.

The announcement raised new questions about the viability of any future U.S. peace plan. President Donald Trump's Mideast team, led by his adviser and son in law Jared Kushner, have been working on their plan for about a year and a half but have not said when it will be made public.

The Palestinians accuse the U.S. of being unfairly biased in favor of Israel, citing a series of steps by the White House. Trump has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital over Palestinian objections and last week cut $200 million in development aid to the Palestinians. Friday's decision cut an additional $300 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which serves millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants across the region.

The Palestinians say these steps are aimed at imposing outcomes for two of the most sensitive issues in the conflict—the fate of contested Jerusalem and the plight of Palestinian refugees—without negotiations.

"What is the American administration doing? They are pre-empting, prejudging issues reserved for permanent status," said Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator.

"They are undermining the moderate forces in Palestine and Israel," he added. "Those elements that want to achieve peace peacefully based on a two-state solution are being destroyed." He said extremists across the region had been given "gifts."

UNRWA was established after the war surrounding Israel's establishment in 1948 to aid the 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes. Today, it provides education, health care and social services to some 5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The agency is also a major employer in the Palestinian areas.

The U.S. in recent years has supplied nearly 30 percent of UNRWA's budget. But early this year, it suspended roughly $300 million in planned assistance, pending a review. Friday's decision formally cut that money, as well as future assistance to the agency.

In a statement, the U.S. called the agency an "irredeemably flawed operation." It said the U.S. was no longer willing to pay for a "very disproportionate share" of UNRWA's costs and criticized what it called the agency's "fundamental business model and fiscal practices" and its "endlessly and exponentially expanding community of entitled beneficiaries."

The statement largely echoed Israeli claims that UNRWA perpetuates the conflict by promoting an unrealistic Palestinian demand that refugees have the "right of return" to long-lost homes in what is now Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said UNRWA should be abolished and its responsibilities taken over by the main U.N. refugee agency.

In Lebanon on Friday, the U.N. refugee agency's commissioner, Filipo Grandi, ruled out taking on the Palestinian refugee issue. "No! The Palestinians in the region are the responsibility of UNRWA," he said.

UNRWA's spokesman, Chris Gunness, said the agency expressed "deep regret and disappointment" with the U.S. decision. He rejected "in the strongest possible terms" the U.S. accusations that its operations are flawed.

"These very programs have a proven track record in creating one of the most successful human development processes and results in the Middle East," he said.

Lula da Silva barred from running for Brazil's presidency

SAO PAULO (AP)—Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been barred from Brazil's October presidential election by the country's electoral court despite easily leading in the polls—a ruling that adds uncertainty to the race to lead Latin America's largest nation, leaving no clear favorites.

In a session that stretched into the early hours of Saturday, the justices voted 6-1 against the once hugely popular president, who is imprisoned on a corruption conviction he claims is a sham.

Da Silva's left-leaning Workers' Party issued a statement vowing to appeal, but there appeared to be scant chance it would succeed. That would seem to leave the party's fortunes in the hands of its current vice presidential candidate Fernando Haddad, a former Sao Paulo mayor who so far has polled in single digits and would have to count on the borrowed charisma of da Silva to succeed.

Supreme Court Justice Luis Roberto Barroso cast the first vote against da Silva, saying the ruling was "very simple" because the law forbids candidates whose conviction has been upheld on appeal.

"There is no margin here for the electoral court to make any other evaluation but the one showing there is a conviction, and that conviction matters in the candidate's eligibility," Barroso said.

Justice Edson Fachin disagreed, citing a recent call by a U.N. human rights committee calling for da Silva to be allowed to run while he further appeals his conviction.

Even as the justices were debating, the Workers' Party put out ads on social media channels featuring da Silva, holding fast to a strategy to keep the former president front and center as long as possible.

The former firebrand union leader led Brazil during a booming period from 2003 and 2010, promoting social policies that pulled millions from poverty. U.S. President Barack Obama once called him the "most popular politician on earth."

But da Silva and party have lost much of that appeal over the last several years due to a stumbling economy under his hand-picked successor Dilma Rousseff and a sprawling corruption probe that has ensnared many top businessmen and politicians, including da Silva.

The 72-year-old ex-president is serving a 12-year-sentence for corruption and money laundering after being convicted of trading favors with construction company Grupo OAS in exchange for the promise of a beach house apartment.

Justice Barroso said the Workers' Party should replace da Silva within 10 days, and that he should not appear as a presidential candidate in free airtime that is given to political parties on nationwide TV and radio starting on Saturday.

In a statement late Friday, the Workers' Party said it would appeal the electoral court ruling, just as da Silva is fighting to overturn his corruption conviction.

With da Silva out of the race, Haddad was expected to take his place on the Workers' Party ticket. Polls show tepid support for his bid, but the party hopes da Silva's popularity could boost the former mayor's hopes.

On Saturday, Haddad was scheduled to visit Garanhuns, a city in Brazil's impoverished Northeast where da Silva was born.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope decries emergency of plastics blighting world's seas

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis on Saturday called for concrete action to combat the "emergency" of plastics littering seas and oceans, lamenting the lack of effective regulation to protect the world's waters. Building on his papacy's concern for the environment, Francis issued a message aimed at galvanizing Christians and others to commit to saving what he hails as the "impressive and marvelous," God-given gift of the "great waters and all they contain." "Sadly, all too often many efforts fail due to the lack of effective regulation and means of control, particularly with regard to the protection of marine areas beyond national confines," the pope wrote. "We cannot allow our seas and oceans to be littered by endless fields of floating plastic," Francis said. "Here, too, our active commitment is needed to confront this emergency." Francis recommended a two-pronged approach, saying: "We need to pray as if everything depended on God's providence and work as if everything depended on us."

Russian airport worker dies, 18 hurt in plane crash

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's transportation minister says a supervisor at Sochi airport has died during an emergency response after a landing plane careered off the end of the runway into a riverbed and caught fire. The health ministry says 18 people were injured in the accident, which occurred about 3 a.m. (0000 GMT) as the Utair-operated Boeing 737 from Moscow, carrying 164 passengers and six crew members, was landing. The airport said the fire was extinguished within eight minutes. Transportation minister Yevgeny Ditrikh said airport shift supervisor Vladimir Begiyan, who was one of the first responders to the accident, died of a heart attack at the scene. The cause of the crash has not been determined.

9 injured in blaze at German refinery; hundreds evacuated

BERLIN (AP) — Nine people have been injured in a blaze at an oil refinery in Bavaria, and another 1,800 people living close by were temporarily evacuated. Police said the fire spread quickly after a loud detonation was heard early Saturday in the southern German town of Vohburg an der Donau. A huge smoke cloud could be seen miles away. Residents were evacuated because of possibly toxic fumes. Air tests later showed it was safe for people to return to their homes. The German news agency dpa reported all nine injured were Bayernoil refinery employees. It said some 400 fire fighters and police were on the ground to help extinguish the fire. Authorities said the cause of the explosion was not known.

Focus

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018, photo cargo is unload from trucks at the Port of Long Beach in Long Beach, Calif. Between them, the California ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach account for a large amount of the seaborne goods that the United States imports from China, and the prospect of a widening trade war between the global giants has port executives and longshoremen worried.

TARIFFS STIRRING FEAR at many US points of entry for imports

By DAVID KOENIG
AP BUSINESS WRITER

To understand why the impact of President Donald Trump's tariffs could be felt throughout the United States, consider this:

From the West Coast to the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, at least 10 percent of imports at many ports could be hit by new tariffs if Trump's proposals take full effect, according to an exclusive analysis of government data by The Associated Press.

Ports and ground terminals in nearly every state handle goods that are now or will likely soon be covered by import tariffs. And port officials fear this could mean a slowdown in shipping that would have ripple effects on truckers and others whose jobs depend on trade.

Since March, the U.S. has applied new tariffs of up to 25 percent on nearly $85 billion worth of steel and aluminum and various Chinese products, mostly goods used in manufacturing.

"Tariffs are working big time," Trump tweeted recently.

The president has argued that the tariffs will help protect American workers and force U.S. trading partners to change rules that the president insists are unfair to the United States.

At the same time, his administration is preparing to slap tariffs of up to 25 percent on an additional $200 billion in Chinese imports—many of them parts and materials U.S. companies depend on, along with consumer goods—after a public comment period ends Thursday.

These tariffs are the administration's response to its charges that Beijing uses predatory tactics to try to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. Those tactics include cybertheft and a requirement that American companies hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to China's market.

U.S. manufacturers are beginning to respond to the tariffs. On Friday, Ford announced that it has abandoned plans to import a crossover version of its Focus compact car from China to the U.S. because of tariffs that took effect in July. Ford has already said it will exit most of the U.S. car business as it shifts sharply toward trucks and SUVs.

In New Orleans, port officials say a tariff-related drop in shipments is real, not merely a forecast. Steel imports there have declined more than 25 percent from a year ago, according to the port's chief commercial officer, Robert Landry.

The port is scouting for other commodities it can import. But expectations appear to be low.

"In our business, steel is the ideal commodity," Landry said. "It's big, it's heavy, we charge by the ton so it pays well. You never find anything that pays as well as steel does."

The port of Milwaukee imports steel from Europe and ships out agricultural products from the Midwest. Steel imports haven't dropped yet because they are under long-term contracts, said the port director, Adam Schlicht. But there has been "an almost immediate halt" in outbound shipments of corn because of retaliatory duties imposed by the European Union on American products.

Much of the corn, he said, "is just staying in silos. They are filled to the brim."

Many other ports have been humming along and even enjoyed an unexpected bump in imports during June and July as U.S. businesses moved up orders to ship before the new tariffs took effect. That started with manufacturing goods and is now spreading to retail items for back-to-school and Christmas.

"Some of my retail customers are forward-shipping the best they can to offset proposed tariffs," says Peter Schneider, executive vice president of T.G.S. Transportation, a trucking company in Fresno, California.

Port officials were encouraged by this week's announcement that the United States and Mexico had reached a preliminary agreement to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, hoping it might lead to reduced trade barriers. Canada's participation in any new deal to replace NAFTA, though, remains a major question mark.

The port officials continue to worry, though, that Trump will make good on a plan to expand tariffs to an additional $200 billion in Chinese imports—a list that includes fish and other foods, furniture, carpets, tires, rain jackets and hundreds of additional items. Tariffs would make those items costlier in the United States. And if Americans buy fewer of those goods, it would likely lead to fewer container ships steaming into U.S. ports.

The impact will be felt keenly at West Coast ports like Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, relying on information from his port officials, said his port—the biggest in the United States—could suffer a 20 percent drop in volume if the additional $200 billion in tariffs are imposed against Chinese goods.

Jock O'Connell, an economist in California who studies trade, said he doubts a downturn would be so severe—that would match the slump that accompanied the global recession of 2008—"but we will see a definite impact."

Here are some of the key findings from the AP analysis:

■ U.S. tariffs will cover goods that are imported at more than 250 seaports, airports and ground terminals in 48 states.

■ At 18 of 43 customs districts—including those representing ports around Los Angeles, San Francisco, New Orleans and Houston—at least 10 percent of their total import value could be covered by new tariffs if all Trump's proposals take effect.

■ Retaliatory duties by China and other countries cover $27 billion in U.S. exports.

Eugene Seroka, executive director of the Los Angeles port, worries that "if tariffs make it too expensive to import, there will be an impact on jobs."

Seroka and others don't expect layoffs on the docks. Union longshoremen—whose average pay last year on the West Coast was $163,000, according to the Pacific Maritime Association, which negotiates for the ports—often have contract provisions ensuring that they are paid even if there's no work. And there are fewer of them than there were a few decades ago because the advent of shipping containers has reduced the need for people on the docks.

Dwayne Boudreaux, an International Longshoremen's Association official in Louisiana, said, though, that his stevedores are handling about 10 percent less steel from Japan because of the new tariffs.

"We don't think it's going to (get) worse," he said. But, he added, "who knows—that could change from the next press conference."

The impact might be greater on truck drivers and warehouse workers. Fewer will be needed, according to O'Connell.

Many drivers who deliver shipping containers from the dock to warehouses are independents contracted by trucking companies, and they don't get paid if there is nothing to haul. Some might leave the profession, said Weston LaBar, CEO of the Harbor Trucking Association in Long Beach, California.

"It's hard to retain drivers," he said. "If we don't have work for those drivers, we're worried they will leave for some other segment of the trucking business or go into another business, like construction."

Less shipping means less revenue for the ports—something that could limit their ability to pay for expansion and improvement projects, according to Kurt Nagle, president of the American Association of Port Authorities. He said U.S. ports are in the midst of a planned $155 billion in infrastructure spending from 2016 through 2020.

The current trade war was foreshadowed in January by steep U.S. tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines. It exploded with the U.S. tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum. Then came two rounds of duties targeting about $50 billion in imports from China.

Along the way, China, the European Union, Turkey, Canada and Mexico imposed retaliatory duties on U.S. goods including farm products and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

On top of the $200 billion in additional Chinese imports that could face U.S. tariffs starting next week, Trump has said that if Beijing continues to retaliate, he may eventually slap tariffs on, all told, $450 billion in Chinese goods. That would be equal to nearly 90 percent of China's 2017 exports to the U.S.

Trade wars are usually temporary. President George W. Bush abandoned his steel tariffs after less than two years.

Milwaukee's port director worries, however, that damage from the current trade dispute could linger. Canada is increasing corn exports to Europe, and Brazil is trying to pick up the slack in soybean exports to China.

"Others are already picking up that business," Schlicht said.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Here's why some people respond well to exercise and others don't

By MARI A. SCHAEFER
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Ever wonder why some people in your fitness class get a big benefit from both the aerobic and strength training sets while others seem to get an advantage from just one of the workouts?

Researchers at the Boston-based Joslin Diabetes Center may have found the answer.

In a study published in the journal Nature Communications, researchers uncovered a molecular "switch" that occurs when a protein that helps to drive the body's response to exercise, called c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK), is activated.

"It's like a switch," said Sarah Lessard, lead author of the study. "If the switch is on, you'll have muscle growth. If it's turned off, you have endurance adaptation in the muscle."

We know aerobic exercise helps prevent diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other chronic metabolic diseases. But not everyone gets the same benefits from running, spinning, swimming, and other cardio-boosting exercises.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Some people respond well to exercise and others don't.

Researchers found that when the JNK biological pathway was turned on in lab mice, they would respond poorly to endurance exercise training.

When the scientists knocked out the production of the JNK protein, the mice had a much higher increase in their aerobic exercise capacity as well as higher levels of blood vessels and a type of muscle fiber that would help with endurance compared with normal mice.

The researchers also repeated the tests on humans and received similar results. While lifting weights, researchers found JNK was activated in the leg muscles. But when the subjects cycled on a bike, an endurance exercise, JNK generally was not activated.

The study results have direct implications for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes.

The researchers are now looking at ways to inhibit JNK activation.

If over-activation of the JNK pathway during endurance exercise does indeed boost the risk of diabetes, and if scientists can figure out a way to stop that process, "we might be able to reverse the risk in some people," said Lessard, assistant investigator of clinical, behavioral, and outcomes research at Joslin.

4 health foods that are actually bad for you

By KAREN D'SOUZA
THE MERCURY NEWS

Healthy living can be harder than it sounds. You know you should exercise more and eat more nutritious food, of course, but did you also know that just because a food calls itself "healthy" doesn't mean it is? Ditto calling something vegan or calling it carb-free. You have to look beyond the labels and check out the ingredients to see which foods are the real deal and which are just a gimmick.

Here's a cheat sheet of four foods that you might think of as "healthy snacks" that are really not. This is stuff the nutritionist would nix in a jiffy.

VEGGIE CHIPS

You know you need to eat more veggies, but alas, puffs that claim to contain vegetables just don't cut it. Look at the ingredients and you will often find potato flour, cornmeal and rice flour as the mainstays. All that starch means big-time calories.

If you are looking to splurge, just go ahead and treat yourself to potato chips or pretzels. The veggie chips are almost as bad for you. As Time points out, one major brand only has 40 than regular old potato chips, which actually provide 1 gram fewer carbs and 1 extra gram of protein. Yikes.

Bottom line: If you really want to be healthy, stick with actual veggies. Crunch yourself silly with carrots or bell pepper slices or cucumber wedges. Throw in some hummus and make it a hearty snack.

FRUIT SNACKS

This one really hurts if you are a mom because it's hard to find a snack that kids love that you can feel good about giving them. That's why fruit snacks seem like the sweet spot, right? Nope.

MARK DUFRENE/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

Hit the trails with a batch of homemade trail mix and granola bars. From left: Paleo Power Pucks with pepitas, dried apricots and dates; Friend Bars, with pepitas, sesame seeds and dried apricots and Nick Bars, with peanut butter, dates and miniature chocolate chips.

Sure there might be a smidge of fruit in there but there's usually also a cornucopia of corn syrup, gelatin, modified corn starch, and a host of artificial flavors, as Today cites.

Bottom line: You can get way more vitamins and fiber if you stick with real fruit. Maybe mix up a fruit salad for the kiddos with fresh blueberries, apple chunks and banana? It's not as convenient, certainly, but it is actually food.

VEGAN COOKIES

Just because it has vegan in the name does not mean it's actually good for you. Vegan cookies are a prime example because many are chock full of refined sugar and refined flour, and they are totally lacking in fiber and other nutrients.

Portion control is the key. One brand of vegan cookie actually has the nerve to claim that a serving is one half of a cookie. That means that one 4.25-ounce vegan cookies is actually two servings. If you gobble down that whole cookie, as Time notes, you will have sucked down 480 calories, 78 grams of carb, including 57 grams as sugar, with just 2 grams of fiber.

Bottom line: If you really want healthy vegan cookies, you might need to bake up a batch at home. Throw in some whole foods, such as almond butter, rolled oats and chia seeds and jazz it up with a little bit of cinnamon, maple syrup and vanilla.

TRAIL MIX

Trail mix varies widely depending on who makes it, as Time puts it. Many brands contain dried fruit that's been drenched with sugar and then treated with artificial preservatives. Then they throw in candy-coated milk chocolate orbs and such. This style of trail mix packs a hefty 200 calories into a golf-ball size serving with, little nutritional substance.

Bottom line: If you crave healthy trail mix, you might have to DIY. Start with a base of nuts (think almonds, walnuts, pecans or pistachios) and seeds (pumpkin or sunflower) and then give it some zing with unsweetened chunks of dried fruit (go with chopped dried figs, plums or dried cherries.) Chocolate lovers may want to toss in a little dark chocolate into the mix.

Personal Trainer

Stretch from the horizontal

These stretching exercises are all done from a position lying on your back, so they are a good way to start–or end–a stretching routine.

Double hip rotation

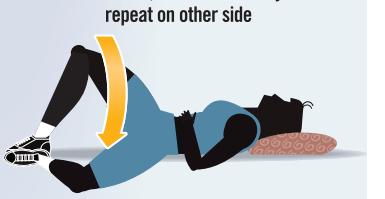
Lie with knees bent, shoulders on floor

Turn knees to one side as far as possible, hold 10-30 sec.; repeat on other side

Single hip rotation

Lie with knees bent, shoulders down, feet flat

Slowly turn one knee to side, hold 10-30 seconds; raise knee slowly and repeat on other side



Shoulder rotation

Lie flat with pillow or towel under head

Bend elbows and turn arms down 10-30 sec.; slowly rotate until hands are pointing other direction

Neck rotation

Lie with phone book or magazines under head

Turn head fully to left; hold 10-30 sec.; repeat on other side; do five sets

Source: National Institute on Aging (U.S.)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

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Life & Style

Actress in 'ER,' 'Stand and Deliver' fatally shot by police

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An actress who appeared on the TV medical drama "ER" and starred in the film "Stand and Deliver" was fatally shot by police officers in Southern California after they say she pointed a replica handgun at them.

Vanessa Marquez, who gained attention last year when she said George Clooney helped blacklist her from Hollywood, died at a hospital following Thursday's shooting at her apartment in South Pasadena, just outside Los Angeles.

South Pasadena police officers responded to a call from Marquez's landlord that she needed medical help. When they arrived she was having a seizure, Lt. Joe Mendoza with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said Friday.

Paramedics treated Marquez, 49, who improved and began talking with three officers and a mental health clinician who spent an hour-and-a-half trying to talk her into getting medical help, Mendoza said.

Marquez became uncooperative, appeared unable to care for herself and seemed to have mental health issues, he said.

At some point, Mendoza said Marquez got what turned out to be a BB gun and pointed it at the officers, prompting two of them to shoot.

"It looked like a real gun," he said, adding that it's unclear where the gun was during her lengthy interaction with police.

The officers were wearing body cameras but footage won't be released for at least six months pending the investigation, Mendoza said.

Terence Towles Canote, a close friend of Marquez's, said the actress was having health and financial problems but that she showed no signs of depression or other mental troubles. She still talked about her dream of winning an Oscar one day and was hopeful for a career comeback, he said.

AP
This undated self-portrait posted on Instagram shows actress Vanessa Marquez.

"She was looking forward to life," Canote said. "This is not a woman who wanted to die."

Marquez posted extensively on Facebook and elsewhere about her health problems, saying she was terminally ill and had seizures and celiac disease, an autoimmune disorder that can damage the small intestine if gluten is ingested.

In 2014, she said in an online post that she had spent her life savings on doctors and hospitals who didn't properly treat her and that she couldn't work or "do most basic everyday functions."

Marquez had a recurring role during the first several years of "ER," which ran from 1994 to 2009. She also appeared on episodes of "Seinfeld," ''Melrose Place" and "Malcolm & Eddie" but her career largely fizzled after "ER."

Marquez gained attention last year after tweeting that Clooney helped blacklist her from Hollywood when she complained about sexual harassment and racist comments among their "ER" co-stars. Clooney said in a statement to "US Weekly" at the time that he was just an actor on the show and was unaware of any effort to blacklist her.

"If she was told I was involved in any decision about her career then she was lied to," he said. "The fact that I couldn't affect her career is only surpassed by the fact that I wouldn't."

In one of her social media posts, Marquez talked about being grateful to be a part of "Stand and Deliver," a 1988 film about a math teacher who motivated struggling students at a tough East Los Angeles high school.

"If you're truly fortunate, you get to live your dream and do the work you were put on this Earth to do," she wrote. "If you're really, really fortunate you do a film that makes history and affects the lives of millions of people ... It will live on long after we're gone."

French actor Gerard Depardieu is subject of rape complaint

PARIS (AP)—Prosecutors in Paris have opened a preliminary investigation of a woman's rape and sexual assault accusations against actor Gerard Depardieu, a French judicial official said Thursday. A lawyer said the French film star denies the allegations.

Depardieu

The official said a woman filed a complaint against the French film star on Monday near the southern city of Aix-en-Provence. The case was assigned to Paris prosecutors Wednesday.

The official requested anonymity in discussing the case Thursday because he was not allowed to disclose details about an ongoing investigation.

Depardieu's lawyer, Herve Temime, said on France's BFM TV that the actor "absolutely denies any rape, any sexual assault, any crime."

Depardieu was "shaken" by the "groundless" accusations, Temime said. The lawyer declined to say if Depardieu was in France on Thursday or to give details on the actor's connection to the woman, who was identified by French media as a 22-year-old comedian and dancer.

"He will obviously participate in the investigation and answer the questions," Temime said.

French newspaper Le Parisien and BFM TV said the young comedian alleged that Depardieu assaulted her on August 7 and August 13 at his Parisian home. The two met when Depardieu led a master class at her school, BFM TV reported.

Depardieu has appeared in 200 films over six decades and holds a rare position as a French actor who is known in Hollywood. He won a Golden Globe for his performance in "Green Card," a 1990 English-language romantic comedy co-starring Andie MacDowell.

His first big hit in France was "Les Valseuses," ("Going Places"), Bertrand Blier's classic farce about two wandering thugs.

Before he crossed the Atlantic to play a bon vivant Frenchman to MacDowell's prissy horticulturist, Depardieu played roles from Jean Valjean, the thief-turned-saint in "Les Miserables," to Christopher Columbus.

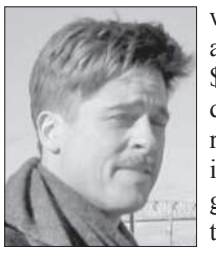
In 2014, he had the leading role in "Welcome to New York," the film inspired by from the life of Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the former director of the International Monetary Fund who was accused in 2011 of sexually assaulting a hotel maid.

Brad Pitt foundation faces lawsuit over New Orleans homes

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—An attorney plans to sue actor Brad Pitt's foundation over the degradation of homes built in an area of New Orleans that was among the hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.

The forthcoming lawsuit against Pitt's Make It Right foundation will be filed on behalf of some Lower Ninth Ward residents, who attorney Ron Austin told WWL-TV have reported sicknesses, headaches, and infrastructural issues.

Enlisting award-winning architects, Pitt founded the venture in 2007, two years after Katrina devastated the city and essentially washed away what would become the Make It Right enclave.



Pitt

Construction began in 2008, working toward replacing the lost housing with 150 avant-garde dwellings that were storm-safe, solar-powered, highly insulated, and "green." The homes were available at an average price of $150,000 to residents who received resettlement financing, government grants and donations from the foundation itself.

But 10 years and more than $26 million later, construction has halted at around 40 houses short of Pitt's goal, and some homes are falling apart. Residents have reported sagging porches, mildewing wood and leaky roofs.

"Essentially, Make It Right was making a lot of promises to come back and fix the homes that they initially sold these people and have failed to do so," Austin said.

The foundation in 2014 did spend an average of $12,000 each on 39 homes to replace the deteriorating TimberSIL lumber, which was billed as environmentally friendly, weatherproof and durable, NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune reported . Make It Right then sued TimberSIL for $500,000, but it's unclear whether that dispute was settled.

President and stars join in epic farewell to Queen of Soul

DETROIT (AP)—Former presidents and preachers joined a parade of singers Friday in a hip-swaying, piano-pounding farewell to Aretha Franklin, remembering the Queen of Soul as a powerful force for musical and political change and a steadfast friend and family member.

"Aretha's singing challenged the dangling discords of hate and lies and racism and injustice," the pastor William J. Barber II said. "Her singing was revelation and was revolution."

In a send-off both grand and personal, a celebrity lineup of mourners filled the same Detroit church that hosted Rosa Parks' funeral and offered prayers, songs and dozens of tributes. Guests included former President Bill Clinton, former first lady Hillary Clinton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson.

Robinson, the Motown great, remembered first hearing Franklin play piano when he was just 8, and he remained close to her for the rest of her life. They talked for hours at a time.

"You're so special," he said, before crooning a few lines from his song "Really Gonna Miss You," with the line "really gonna be different without you."

Late Friday, Franklin was laid to rest in a mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery, the final resting place of her father and two of her sisters.

The epic funeral unfolded on the same day as services for Arizona Sen. John McCain in the nation's capital, creating a challenge for some news networks trying to show both ceremonies. The McCain memorial, with its reverential silence and ramrod-straight honor guard, contrasted sharply with the joyous remembrance in Detroit.

Groundbreaking alternative paper Village Voice shuts down

NEW YORK (AP)—The Village Voice, the Pulitzer Prize-winning alternative weekly known for its muckraking investigations, exhaustive arts criticism, naughty personal ads and neurosis-laden cartoons, is going out of business after 63 years.

Its publisher, Peter Barbey, announced Friday that the paper is ceasing publication altogether because of financial problems, a year after it stopped circulating in print and went to digital-only.

"Today is kind of a sucky day," he told staff members.

Eight of the Voice's 18 remaining staffers were laid off. Others stayed behind to digitize its print archive so that future generations can read it.

News editor Neil deMause said staffers were more saddened than shocked by the news.

"It's 2018 and we're all aware of the state of the journalism industry," said deMause, 52, who started reading the Voice as a teenager in the 1980s.

The Voice was the country's first alternative newsweekly, founded in Greenwich Village in 1955 by a group that included writer Norman Mailer. It once had a weekly circulation of 250,000 copies and was home to some of New York's best investigative journalists and music writers.

The combative, left-leaning paper became known for its brash political reporting and its coverage of music and theater. It also became a powerful advocate for New York's gay community.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Alec Baldwin withdraws from 'Joker,' scheduling issues

Baldwin

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alec Baldwin has pulled out of playing Bruce Wayne's father in the "Joker" movie. The actor told USA Today on Wednesday he has "scheduling" issues. Baldwin says he's "sure there are 25 guys who can play that part." Baldwin was cast to play Thomas Wayne in the film, which features Joaquin Phoenix as the DC Comics villain. Robert De Niro also is part of the cast in the Warner Bros. movie, which is due in theaters in October 2019.

Business manager guilty of defrauding Ne-Yo, Brian McKnight

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A federal jury has convicted a business manager of defrauding R&B artists Ne-Yo and Brian McKnight in a sports beverage scheme. The panel in Ohio found 42-year-old Kevin Foster of Montclair, New Jersey, guilty of wire fraud, money laundering, bankruptcy fraud, tax evasion and filing false tax returns last week. Prosecutors say Foster induced Ne-Yo, whose real name is Shaffer Smith, to invest $2 million into OXYWater under false representations. They say Foster invested an additional $1.5 million of Smith's money without his consent and took out lines of credit by forging Smith's name. Authorities say he also defrauded McKnight to fund the operation and his lavish lifestyle of luxury cars, designer watches and season tickets to the New York Knicks and Giants. Two others were previously convicted in the scheme.

Famed Viking ship museum to be torn down due to rising sea

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Denmark's famed Viking ship museum, damaged by the rising sea level in 2013, will be torn down. Culture Minister Mette Bock says Denmark's national museum for prehistoric and medieval ships, seafaring and boatbuilding in Roskilde, 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Copenhagen, can be removed from the list of building to be preserved. Bock said Thursday that when built in the 1960s, "no one could have predicted the rising water and the challenges it caused for the museum building." A 2013 winter storm caused damages worth 11.5 million kroner ($1.8 million) to the building overlooking the Roskilde fjord, though none of the ships were damaged. The museum itself had asked for it to be torn down because repairs were impossible. No information about the fate of the ships was available.

Alec Baldwin to speak at New Hampshire Democrats' dinner

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—Alec Baldwin will be the keynote speaker at the New Hampshire Democratic Party's annual fall fundraising dinner. The actor, who won an Emmy last year for his portrayal of President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live," will speak at the Oct. 14 Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner in Manchester. Baldwin says he is working to help Democrats win elections across the country. He recently appeared in a video calling for citizens to support and for Congress to protect special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into the 2016 election. The New Hampshire dinner is an annual event with a new name. In 2016, the party switched the name from the Jefferson-Jackson dinner to the Kennedy-Clinton dinner.

New Illinois roller coaster to reach 78 mph in 2 seconds

GURNEE, Ill. (AP)—A Chicago-area theme park says it will open a new roller coaster that will accelerate from 0 to 78 miles per hour (125 kph) in less than two seconds. Six Flags Great America announced the new attraction, called Maxx Force, on Thursday. It's scheduled to open next summer at the park in Gurnee, Illinois, and park officials say it will be the fastest launch coaster in North America. Six Flags Great America President Hank Salemi says the coaster will be "in a class all by itself." He says Maxx Force also will feature the highest double inversion and fastest inversion of any roller coaster in the world. Its custom coaster trains will be modeled after Formula One Racing cars.

Eminem drops new album 'Kamikaze'

Eminem

NEW YORK (AP)—Eminem picked a busy day to surprise the world his new album—"Kamikaze" was released only hours before the funerals of Aretha Franklin and the Washington tribute to the late Sen. John McCain. The 13-track CD includes the song "Venom," which will feature in the upcoming film of the same name. The disc also includes two songs featuring Jessie Reyez. The cover shows the rear end of a fighter plane—recalling a similar cover of the Beastie Boys' 1986 album "Licensed to Ill." The rapper dropped the album just after midnight Thursday, tweeting: "Tried not 2 overthink this 1... enjoy." The album doesn't find Eminem in a peaceful place. It kicks off with "The Ringer," in which he says he wants to "punch the world" in the face.

Claire Danes and Hugh Dancy welcome baby boy

NEW YORK (AP)—Claire Danes and Hugh Dancy have welcomed a baby boy. A publicist for the actors told The Associated Press on Friday that the couple gave birth Monday in New York. This is the second child for the 39-year-old actress and 42-year-old actor. They are already parents to their 5-year-old son Cyrus Michael Christopher. The actors have been married since 2009. Danes, the "Homeland" actress, has won three Emmy Awards and four Golden Globes. The British actor Dancy starred in the TV series "Hannibal."

Library of Congress honors literacy programs

NEW YORK (AP)—Three literacy and educational organizations are being honored by the Library of Congress, with cash awards totaling $250,000. On Friday, Reading is Fundamental, located in Washington, D.C., received the $150,000 David M. Rubenstein Prize. New York City's East Side Community School was given the $50,000 American Prize. The Pedagogical Institute for Language Problems (Instituto Pedagógico para Problemas del Lenguaje), based in Mexico City, was awarded the $50,000 International Prize. The prizes were presented by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and by Rubenstein, a business executive and philanthropist and who established the literacy awards in 2013. The Library of Congress Literacy Awards program also honored such organizations as Project Read, from Provo Utah, and the Philadelphia Office of Adult Education.

T-Pain, bodyguard detained at airport after gun in carry-on

ATLANTA (AP)—Grammy Award-winning rapper T-Pain was detained by Atlanta police after he tried going through a security checkpoint with a gun at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. News outlets report police said the gun was found in a backpack belonging to T-Pain, whose real name is Faheem Rashad Najm. Investigators say the bag was being carried by his bodyguard, Carlos Aleili Flores. T-Pain and Flores were taken to the airport police precinct while officers investigated. Police, in a statement, said the rapper confirmed owning the firearm, provided a valid permit to carry and the weapon was returned to him. The statement said no charges were filed against either man. But police said an investigation continues to determine if Flores will face charges for possession of a weapon at a Transportation Security Administration checkpoint.

Lana Del Rey nixes Israel concert after Palestinian pressure

JERUSALEM (AP)—Singer Lana Del Rey has canceled her planned performance at an Israeli music festival after pressure from Palestinian boycott activists. In a Twitter message late Friday, Del Rey says she is delaying "until a time when I can schedule visits for both my Israeli and Palestinian fans." It wasn't clear whether it was a direct response to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement's boycott call. Still, it marked a setback for Israel, which aims to prevent politics from infiltrating the arts. Del Rey was to headline the inaugural Meteor Festival in northern Israel next week. BDS urges businesses, artists and universities to sever ties with Israel. It says it's a nonviolent way to promote the Palestinian cause. But Israel says it masks a more far-reaching aim to delegitimize or destroy the Jewish state.

AP Exclusive: Franklin funeral bishop apologizes to Grande

DETROIT (AP)—The bishop who officiated Aretha Franklin's funeral has apologized to Ariana Grande for how he touched her onstage and a joke he made about her name. Bishop Charles H. Ellis III led Franklin's funeral and awkwardly greeted Grande on stage after she performed "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman." Images of the moment showed Ellis' hand holding Grande well above her waist, with his fingers pressing against one side of her chest. The preacher apologized in an interview with The Associated Press at the cemetery where Franklin was interred late Friday. "It would never be my intention to touch any woman's breast. ... I don't know I guess I put my arm around her," Ellis said. "Maybe I crossed the border, maybe I was too friendly or familiar but again, I apologize." He said he hugged all the performers during Friday's eight-hour service. "I hug all the female artists and the male artists," Ellis said. "Everybody that was up, I shook their hands and hugged them. That's what we are all about in the church. We are all about love." He added: "The last thing I want to do is to be a distraction to this day. This is all about Aretha Franklin."

Girlfriend wonders when its time to mention her implants

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with a very special man who is five years younger. We met on an online dating site and have been seeing each other for several years. We are well suited for each other and very much in love. We have now decided to live together, with the possibility of marriage if it won't jeopardize our retirement incomes.

My dilemma is I have breast implants. I had the surgery 20 years ago when I was newly widowed and about to start dating again. I never told any of the men I dated, and I don't believe anyone suspected. My breasts look and feel natural and they have enhanced my love life tremendously.

Now that this relationship is serious, I wonder if I need to tell my guy. If he leaves after I tell him, then I guess he wasn't The One. I'd prefer not to say anything. I've had the implants so long, I feel they are part of me, not something foreign in my body. I am afraid he may have an altered opinion of my body after I tell him. Please advise.

OLD, BUT NOT DEAD

DEAR O.B.N.D.: If you really believe he'd leave you after several years together because you told him you have breast implants, then he REALLY isn't the man for you. I think you should level with him, because if one of the implants should need an "adjustment" or replacement, he will find out then and may resent the fact that you hadn't told him. If you two are happy together—and it appears you are—I seriously doubt it will create a wedge between you. Telling him would be better than feeling guilty that you didn't.

DEAR ABBY: I was at a sold-out performance recently, seated next to a family with two young daughters. The youngest daughter had on LED light-up shoes that would flash and blink whenever she stomped her feet.

She quietly watched the first half of the show, but got restless during the second half and began stomping her feet to watch the lights, which was extremely distracting in the dark venue. I gently asked if she would please stop and thanked her when she obliged, just as I would have done if she were my own daughter.

A few minutes later, the family got up and left. On the way out, her father said to me, "About my daughter's shoes? She's (expletive) 4!" in a tone that suggested I should have kept quiet and let her continue doing it. Was I wrong to ask her to stop? The show began at 9:15 p.m. and, while not inappropriate, wasn't geared toward entertaining kids. I'm not surprised she got bored, but her light-up shoes were ruining my experience, and her parents were doing nothing about it. How could I have handled the situation better?

DISTRACTED IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

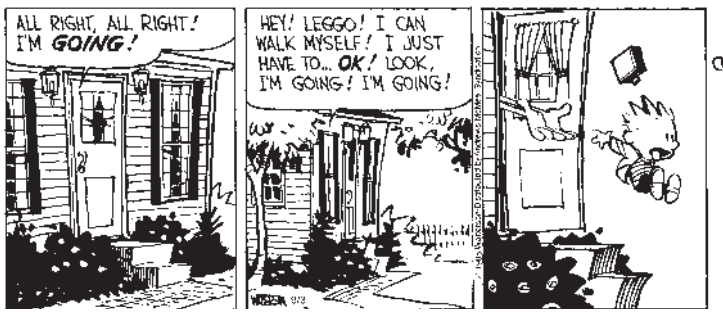
DEAR DISTRACTED: You did nothing wrong. You couldn't have handled the situation better than you did. The child's father was out of line for using vulgarity, which was uncalled for. Rather than leave the performance, all the parents had to do was keep reinforcing the idea of being considerate to the other audience members—a lesson that would serve their daughter well in the future.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'M GOING!
HEY! LEGGO! I CAN WALK MYSELF! I JUST HAVE TO... OK! LOOK, I'M GOING! I'M GOING!
SURE, YOU THINK SCHOOL'S GREAT NOW, BUT IN A COUPLE OF HOURS YOU'LL MISS ME! YOU'LL SEE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

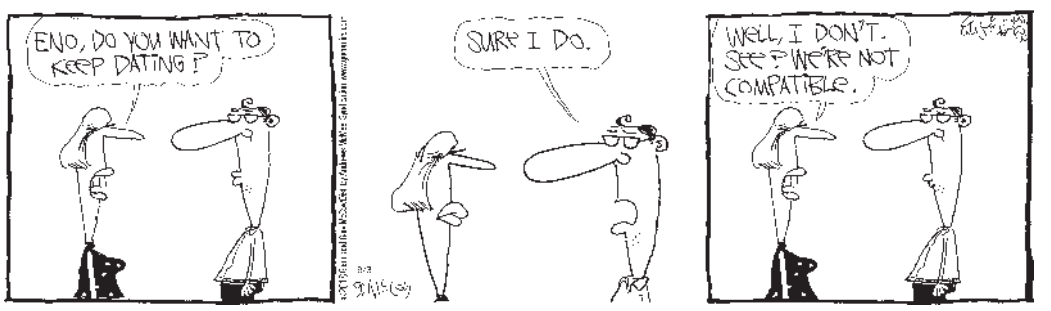
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

UGFF...
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
I WAS WIDE AWAKE FROM ONE TO FIVE-THIRTY.
WHY?
BECAUSE I WASN'T ASLEEP!
WHOA. CRABBY PANTS.
SORRY. MY BRAIN FEELS LIKE IT'S ON THE "AGITATE" SETTING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

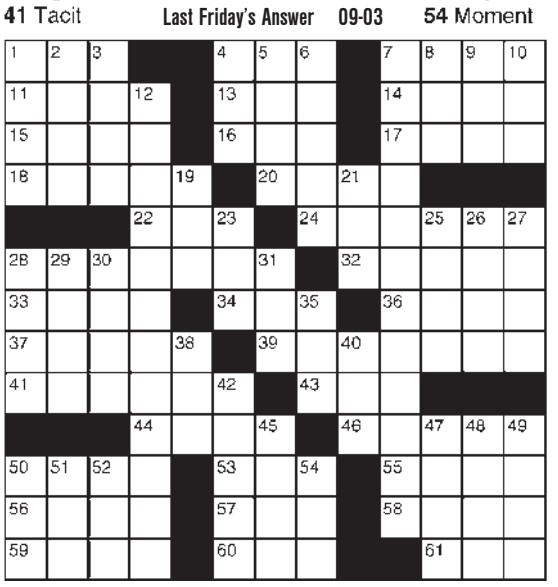
ACROSS
1 Stately tree
4 Apr. addressee
7 Mani counterpart
11 Hearing-impaired
13 — au vin
14 Pivot line
15 Early Peruvian
16 Debtor's letters
17 Detail
18 Moral principle
20 "Death in Venice" author
22 Sgt., e.g.
24 Resentful
28 Durable
32 Higher than
33 Six-sided state
34 "Mangia!"
36 Bar
37 Beer type
39 With one's head held high
41 Tacit
43 Boom times
44 Exceptional
46 Cogitate
50 Shock
53 Hosp. hookups
55 Thames town
56 Garfield's pal
57 Victory sign
58 Wise one
59 Flex
60 Computer key
61 Blue

DOWN
1 Actress Falco
2 Pre-Easter period
3 Jet speed number
4 Here, in Dijon
5 Leeway
6 Small pigeon
7 Artist's tools
8 Tel. number add-on
9 Conk out
10 Doctrine
12 Lacking courage
19 201, in old Rome
21 Actress Vardalos
23 "A Chorus Line" song
25 Frog's kin
26 Satan's forte
27 Depend (on)
28 Humdinger
29 — impasse
30 Droops
31 Mountain pass
35 Capote nickname
38 Estuary
40 Select, with "for"
42 Impetus
45 Prior nights
47 Slanted type (Abbr.)
48 Scrapped mission
49 Recognized
50 Task
51 Praise in verse
52 Architect Maya
54 Moment

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	T	A	K	E		V	S		T	S	A	
A	S	T	I	R		E	O	S		H	U	N
C	E	L	L	I		A	T	S	P	E	E	D
		E	N	C	A	S	E		S	I	D	E
B	O	A		A	W	E		L	Y	R	E	S
L	S	S	H		A		I	I	C			
M	E	T	E	O	R		E	T	H	A	N	E
			G	O	D	O	T		E	T	A	L
P	O	L	I	O		R	O	J		P	H	D
I		I	N		I	N	N	A	T	E		
A	T	L	A	R	G	E		T	O	A	D	Y
N	E	A		F	O	R		E	M	C	E	E
O	H	C		D	H	Y		S	L	E	P	S

Last Friday's Answer 09-03



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rita Volk, 28; Shaun White, 32; Omi, 32; Garrett Hedlund, 34.

Happy Birthday: Breathe deeply and set out on a life journey. The sky is the limit if you are receptive to change. Use your imagination and consider what will make you happy; bring out the best in yourself. Traveling, learning, socializing and making a difference should be high on your to-do list. Embrace life and do your own thing. Your numbers are 5, 16, 22, 28, 30, 33, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Settle into a routine and concentrate on what you need to achieve. Don't argue with someone who will never see your point of view. Protect against unnecessary stress and physical altercations. Keeping the peace will help you avoid interference. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Act as though what you do will have a far greater impact to bring about better results. Look for any opportunity to show others what you have to offer. Networking, business trips and picking an expert's brain are encouraged. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Spend more time developing an image that makes you look and feel successful. Imagine how you can use your attributes to further your interests and focus on turning your dreams into reality. Self-improvement and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take care of the ones you love. Make plans to do something that you can enjoy with friends and family. Don't take on too much physically or neglect your health. If you feel good, you will accomplish more. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Proceed with caution. Change may tempt you, but before you decide to pull out your wallet or say or do something that is likely to be met with opposition, you'd be wise to reconsider the consequences. Moderation is your best bet. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* It's time for a makeover. Update your wardrobe, alter your surroundings or change the way you live. Take the plunge and initiate new beginnings that will encourage you to enjoy life and the people you love. Be true to yourself. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't take on something that is impossible. Question how others treat you, and consider what's best for yourself. Self-improvement and personal growth will encourage you to follow a path that suits you, not someone else. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't make promises unless you plan to keep them. Taking on too much will leave you at a loss. Use your ingenuity and look for ways to live up to the expectations you create. Do your best and you'll get high returns. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* What you hear may sound exciting, but when all the hype settles, you may be disappointed. Ask questions and decipher what's doable and what isn't. Personal improvements and communication should be your priorities. Romance is favored and will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll be tempted to mix business with pleasure. Err on the side of caution when dealing with peers, bosses or anyone who can influence your career. Bringing in more money should be your objective. Learn from an expert. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Personal dealings should be handled with care. Don't let situations get blown out of proportion. Be direct and discuss the pros and cons of whatever situation you face. Love and romance, along with keeping the peace, should be your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Helping others will bring good results. Your popularity will grow if you offer valid solutions. Don't let emotions interfere with the choices you make or the people you choose to help. Being truthful is your best option. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, original and helpful. You are proactive and ambitious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			4	2		8		9
	4			7			1	
1			3		9			
		8				2		6
6	3		9	1	2		8	5
2		5				1		
			6		3			7
	6			8			3	
3		9		5	4			8

Difficulty Level ★ 9/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	3	1	6	8	9	5	4	2
2	5	6	4	7	1	8	3	9
8	4	9	3	2	5	7	1	6
6	9	4	5	1	7	3	2	8
1	2	7	8	3	6	9	5	4
3	8	5	2	9	4	1	6	7
5	1	2	9	4	8	6	7	3
4	6	8	7	5	3	2	9	1
9	7	3	1	6	2	4	8	5

Difficulty Lvl. ★★★★ 9/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FUNKY LOUNGES — Solution: 7 letters

T	S	E	U	G	L	T	L	E	W	T	A	S	T	E
A	Y	S	D	R	A	C	R	O	W	N	E	R	O	C
E	Z	R	A	I	H	S	L	O	O	T	S	E	A	I
S	O	E	U	E	M	G	T	H	P	P	D	S	H	D
E	C	V	E	X	L	L	P	E	O	I	U	T	S	P
V	V	R	I	A	U	A	Y	R	V	A	C	R	I	A
O	S	E	S	B	R	L	T	F	L	R	O	A	E	L
L	I	S	L	G	E	S	I	L	E	L	N	D	L	A
(M)	E	T	O	V	T	R	I	Z	O	O	I	G	K	I
S	(E)	T	A	E	E	G	I	C	E	L	D	N	A	C
D	U	(A)	P	P	H	T	L	A	M	P	S	I	R	O
A	R	R	(L)	T	E	O	S	S	T	A	M	N	A	S
N	A	A	I	P	O	A	R	C	A	D	E	I	O	O
C	C	N	P	C	C	H	A	I	R	S	N	D	K	F
E	G	A	R	E	V	E	B	C	I	S	U	M	E	A

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Appetizer, Arcade, Autograph, Bars, Beverage, Candle, Cards, Carpet, Casual, Chairs, Cheers, Colors, Cool, Cozy, Dance, Darts, Dice, Dimly, Dining, Fireplace, Glasses, Glow, Guest, Idea, Karaoke, Lamps, Lighting, Loveseat, Luxury, Mats, Meal, Menu, Music, Owner, Patio, Piano, Pool, Server, Social, Sofa, Sports, Stools, Taste, Tropical, Velvet, Vibe, Video

Last Friday's Answer: Overhaul

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-06

SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

2018–2019 VEHICLE (5 Door All-Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle)

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for a utility vehicle for the Marshal Services Division.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-11
SUBMISSION DATE: September 21, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE COLOR MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for one color multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

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CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-12
SUBMISSION DATE: September 21, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE COLOR MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for one color multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

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/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-13
SUBMISSION DATE: September 21, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE MONOCHROME MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for one monochrome multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

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Geotesting, Inc. has openings for:

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Materials Supervisor or Soils/Materials Engineer.
Duties: Reviews requirements of new projects and assists in preparation of proposals for clients based on the project requirements, scope of site and subsurface explorations and laboratory testing requirements. Logs subsurface soils and rocks in test borings for engineering purposes. Visits project sites and evaluate surface and probable subsurface soil and rock conditions, and other data. Supervises soils/materials technicians in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Summarizes and prepares reports of the laboratory and field testing data.

Two (2) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering (may be foreign educational equivalent) and three (3) months experience as a Soils/Materials Technician OR Associate's degree (may be foreign educational equivalent) and six (6) months of experience in assisting with performing laboratory and field testing of soils, concrete, and other related materials.
Duties: Assists in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assists in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assists in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

One (1) Accountant
Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Accounting (may be foreign educational equivalent); two (2) years of experience of which one (1) year of experience is as an accountant and one (1) year of experience is as an internal auditor; and one (1) year of experience using Peach Tree or QuickBooks accounting software.
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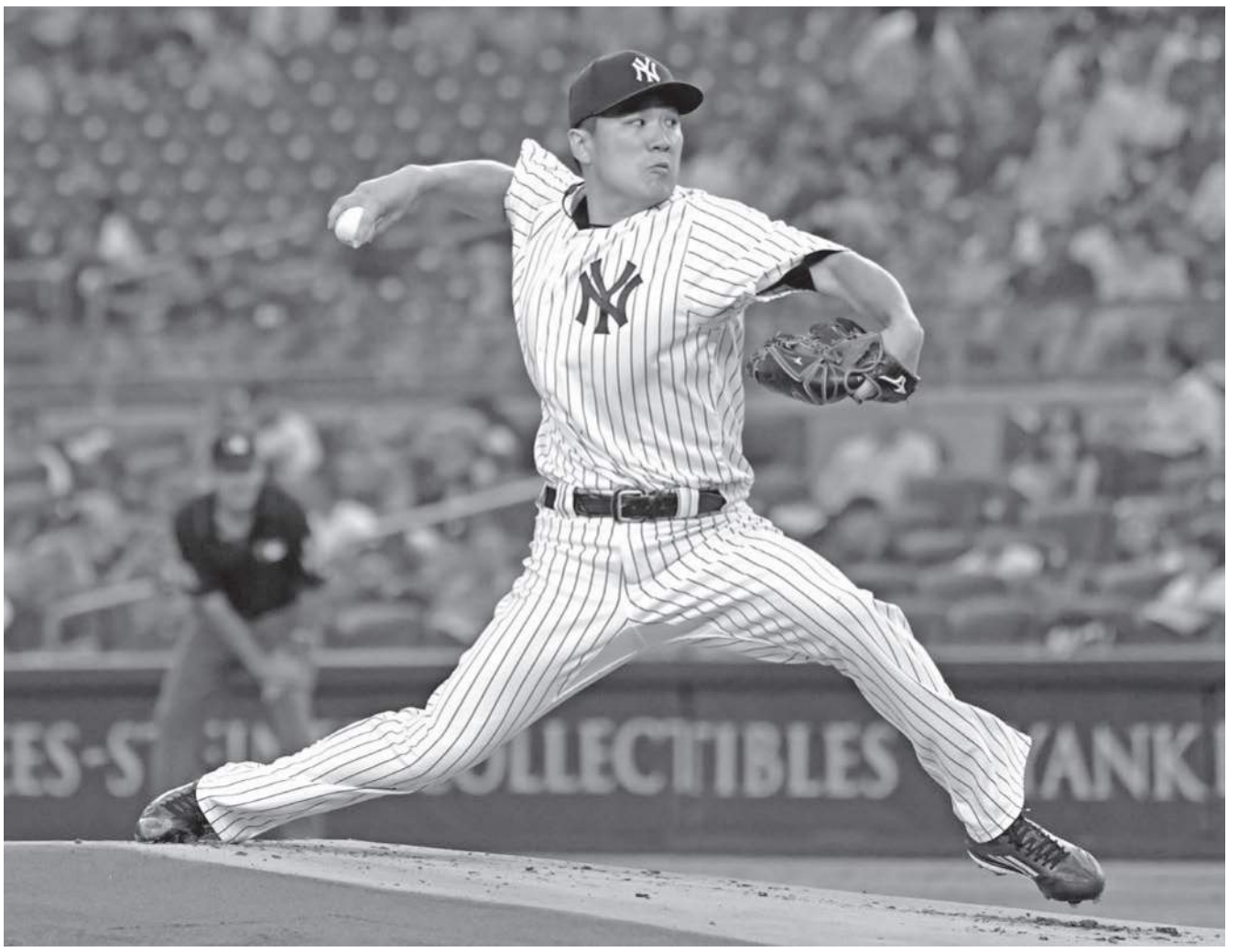


AP
New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka delivers the ball to the Detroit Tigers during the first inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Gleyber Torres came through for the Yankees on a day they welcomed newcomers Andrew McCutchen and Adeiny Hechavarria to the Bronx and got slugging catcher Gary Sanchez back from the disabled list.

Torres hit a two-run homer and Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven strong innings for his first win since July, as New York beat the Detroit Tigers 2-1 Saturday.

The Yankees got only two hits, but won for the 11th time in 15 games. New York has the second-best record in the majors, behind AL East-leading Boston.

Torres hit his 22nd homer of the season and third since the start of the Yankees' homestand on Monday, a stretch over which he's batting .526 with eight RBIs.

"He's impacted our club in a profound way on both sides of the ball all year," manager Aaron Boone said about Torres, a Rookie of the Year candidate.

Torres connected in the fifth off Daniel Norris (0-3) for the Yankees' first hit.

McCutchen went 0 for 3 and struck out twice in his Yankees debut. The former NL MVP batted leadoff and played right field, a day after being acquired from San Francisco.

"I didn't have the game I wanted to have personally, the first one, but we got the win and that's what's most important," McCutchen said. "All around it was a good day and it's a day I'm not going to forget for sure."

Sanchez, who missed nearly six weeks with a recurring groin injury, went 0 for 4.

"I thought he caught great today," Boone said. "I thought he looked pretty much on time at the plate, so I thought a really good first day for him even though he didn't get any results at the plate."

Cubs 7, Phillies 1

In Chicago, Kyle Hendricks pitched six strong innings, Javier Baez notched his NL-leading 99th RBI and Kris Bryant doubled and had two hits in his return from the disabled list to lead the Chicago Cubs past the Philadelphia Phillies.

Ian Happ homered and Baez had three hits for the NL Central-leading Cubs, who have won nine of 11.

Bryant had been sidelined since July 23 with left shoulder inflammation. The 2016 NL MVP doubled and scored in the third and singled in the eighth.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp slugged a go-ahead, two-strike, three-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting Los Angeles over Arizona and into a tie atop the NL West.

With fans on their feet chanting "Let's go Dodgers," Kemp took two quick strikes from Archie Bradley before launching his 19th homer into center field for a 3-2 lead.

Justin Turner got the rally going with one out in the inning.

Mariners 8, Athletics 7

In Oakland, James Paxton returned from the disabled list to strike out 10 batters over five innings, Ben Gamel hit a two-run double and Seattle held off Oakland.

Jean Segura had a two-run single in the fifth, an inning after he was hit by a pitch. He finished with three hits, helping Seattle pull within 4½ games of Oakland for the second AL wild card.

Khris Davis hit his majors-leading 40th home run to start the eighth for Oakland, giving him three straight 40-homer seasons.

Astros 7, Angels 3

In Houston, Tyler White hit a go-ahead two-run double in a five-run eighth inning, Alex Bregman homered and Houston beat Los Angeles.

With the score tied in the eighth, White hit a pitch to left field off Hansel Robles that missed being a home run by just feet. The ball bounced off the top of the metal scoreboard and back into left field. George Springer and Carlos Correa came around to score, putting the Astros ahead 5-3.

Red Sox 6, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Eduardo Rodriguez struck out 12 in 5 2/3 innings in his return from an ankle injury, leading Boston past Chicago.

Jackie Bradley Jr., Ian Kinsler and Eduardo Nunez homered as AL East-leading Boston maintained its 7½-game lead over the New York Yankees. The Red Sox won for the fourth time in five games to run the majors' best record to 94-43, already one more victory than they had when they won the division each of the past two years.

Rays 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Blake Snell moved into a tie for the major league lead with his 17th win as Tampa Bay beat Cleveland.

Snell (17-5) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings, giving up both runs in the second with one being unearned thanks to a throwing error by third baseman Matt Duffy. The left-hander worked around trouble early in the game, but retired nine of the last 10 hitters he faced and struck out the side in the sixth.

Braves 5, Pirates 3

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a tiebreaking, RBI double in the four-run eighth inning, and NL East-leading Atlanta rallied to snap a three-game skid and beat Pittsburgh.

The Braves increased their division lead by three games over Philadelphia. They had dropped five of six overall and seven of eight at home.

Jonny Venters (2-0) got the win after facing two batters in the eighth. Braves closer A.J. Minter faced the minimum in the ninth to earn his 12th save in 14 chances.

Nationals 5, Brewers 4

In Washington, Juan Soto's two-run single highlighted a four-run eighth inning, and Washington rallied past Milwaukee.

With Washington trailing 3-1 in the eighth, Adam Eaton capped a nine-pitch at-bat with a two-out double off Joakim Soria (1-1). Trea Turner then lofted a single to left to make it 3-2. After Turner stole second Bryce Harper and Anthony Rendon walked to load the bases.

Rockies 4, Padres 2

In San Diego, D.J. LeMahieu homered and Jon Gray pitched six solid innings as Colorado snapped San Diego's season-high four-game winning streak.

The Rockies broke a 21-inning scoreless string with a three-run fourth when they strung together four straight hits, the biggest one being LeMahieu's 13th homer.

Mets 2, Giants 1, 11 innings

In San Francisco, Steven Matz struck out a career-high 11 batters, and New York went on to beat San Francisco.

Wilmer Flores doubled to left off Giants reliever Hunter Strickland (3-4) to lead off the 11th. He went to third when Jay Bruce grounded out to second against the shift, and scored on Todd Frazier's fly ball to left.

Jerry Blevins (2-2) pitched a scoreless 10th and Robert Gsellman worked the 11th for his ninth save.

Reds 4, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Luis Castillo and two relievers combined on a two-hitter to lead Cincinnati past St. Louis.

The Reds snapped a three-game losing streak.

St. Louis, which won a major league-best 22 games in August, lost for the second time in six games. The Cardinals fell 4 1/2 games behind Chicago in the NL Central.

Rangers 7, Twins 4

In Arlingtong, Adrian Beltre hit his 470th career homer after 23-year-old sluggers Nomar Mazara and Ronald Guzman went deep, helping the Texas stop a five-game losing streak with a win over Minnesota.

Mazara led off the second inning with his 18th home run and second in as many nights, matching his total from the previous 42 games.

Royals 5, Orioles 4

In Kansas City, Whit Merrifield hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning, giving Kansas City a back-and-forth victory over Baltimore.

The Orioles went ahead off Jake Newberry (1-0) in the top of the ninth, when Trey Mancini homered to lead off and Tim Beckham added a two-run double, his fourth hit of the night.

Marlins 6, Blue Jays 3

In Miami, Martin Prado hit a bases-clearing double in his first game in three weeks, Wei-Yin Chen pitched eight strong innings and Miami beat Toronto.

J.T. Realmuto hit his 18th home run and Brian Anderson knocked in two for the Marlins, who snapped a four-game skid.

Lakers waive Deng midway through $72M deal

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers waived forward Luol Deng on Saturday, just over two years after signing him to a four-year, $72 million free-agent contract.

The Lakers didn't disclose the details of a probable buyout with Deng, but they announced the move on the first day in which the final season of Deng's mammoth deal could be stretched over a three-season span of the Lakers' cap limit.

"We made this move to further our future salary cap and roster flexibility as we continue to build this Lakers team according to our current overall vision," Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka said in a statement.

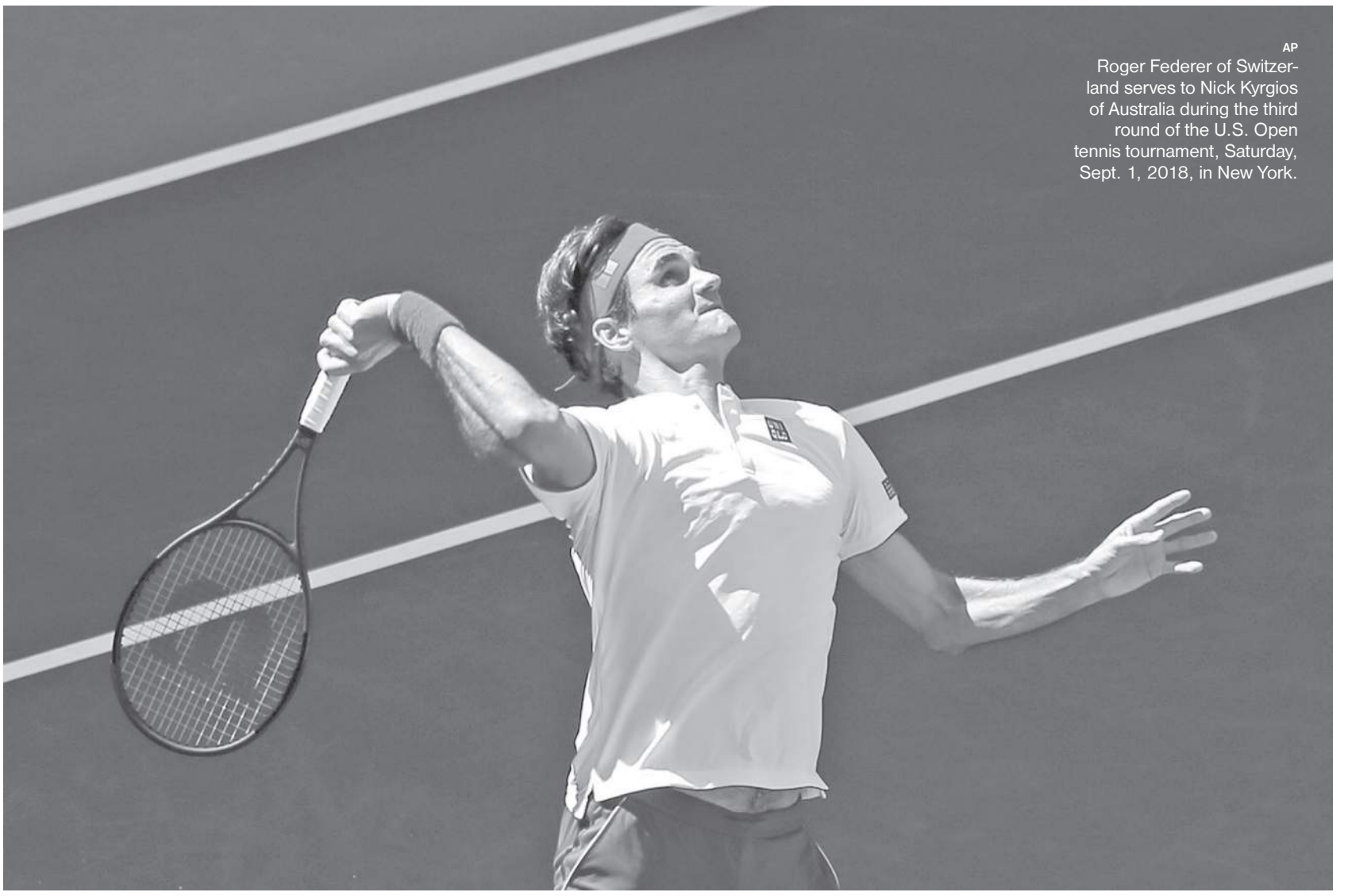
The 33-year-old Deng's deal is a remnant of the administration of former Lakers basketball boss Jim Buss and general manager Mitch Kupchak. The duo handed a pair of generous free-agent deals in 2016 to Deng and center Timofey Mozgov, who got a four-year, $64 million contract.

Buss and Kupchak were dismissed seven months later, and Magic Johnson's administration went to work ridding itself of lengthy commitments. The Lakers gave up guard D'Angelo Russell in a trade with Brooklyn last summer because they could include Mozgov's contract.

Deng appeared in 56 games during his first year with the Lakers, but he played just one game last season with Johnson and Pelinka in charge of the Lakers' front office.

Although the 14-year NBA veteran was the Lakers' highest-paid player last season, he essentially wasn't part of the team. He appeared in the season opener before dropping out of the rotation and eventually spending long stretches away from the Lakers

Federer makes 'unreal' shot; 10 of Top 13 women out



AP
Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Nick Kyrgios of Australia during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—The most pivotal part of Roger Federer's U.S. Open victory over Nick Kyrgios, both men agreed, came all of 17 minutes in, when the 20-time major champion was serving at 3-all, love-40 and got out of the jam.

The most spectacular part? That came, anyone who saw it surely would agree, much later. It was the on-a-full-sprint, drop-shot-retrieving, flick-from-a-few-inches-off-the-ground, forehand-around-the-net-post, jaw-dropping winner that Federer conjured up a few games from the conclusion of the 6-4, 6-1, 7-5 tour de force in the third round Saturday.

"Almost unreal," said Kyrgios, who admired the bit of racket wizardry with eyes wide open and mouth agape.

"A special one, no doubt about it," declared Federer, who put it up there among his greatest hits, which, considering who we're talking about, is certainly saying something.

There's no rule mandating that the ball travel over the net for a shot to count, but Federer pointed out that this was not the sort of thing he can try in practice, mainly because there isn't as much room to run wide of the court as in a big arena like Arthur Ashe Stadium, so "you will be running into a fence."

Much was made of Kyrgios' previous match, in which chair umpire Mohamed Lahyani climbed out of his seat to have a chat with the 23-year-old player about whether he was giving his best effort while trailing by a set and a break. Kyrgios went on to win; Lahyani was chastised by the U.S. Tennis Association for breaching "protocol" but allowed to continue officiating at the tournament.

This time, of course, Kyrgios received no sort of counsel during the match other than all the muttering, at various volumes, he directed at himself. He doesn't have a coach and wondered aloud, during the latest in a long line of news conferences that sound more like therapy sessions, whether he should add one—or perhaps someone who could help with the mental aspect of the game.

Federer alluded to one particularly questionable choice Kyrgios made at 5-all, 40-15 in the final set, when he went for a drop shot that found the net instead of simply hitting a normal forehand into the open court.

"Clearly," Federer said, "when you play that way and you lose, it's always, like, you feel like he's so much to blame. But that's just how he plays."

Clearly.

The contrast between Kyrgios' mindset and Federer's was not lost on the talented, if temperamental, Australian.

"We're two very different characters. Just the way he goes about things, I could take a leaf out of his book. The way he behaves on court. His demeanor," the 30th-seeded Kyrgios said. "I don't want to change myself too much, but I could definitely take away things he does in certain situations. He's the ultimate role model to anyone who wants to play."

The No. 2-seeded Federer moved into the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the 17th consecutive appearance. He's won five titles at the U.S Open, although the last arrived a decade ago.

While he keeps on keeping on, there are all sorts of seeds tumbling from both singles draws.

It's most pronounced in the women's field, where 10 of the top 13 seeds already are gone as Week 1 comes to an end. No. 4 Angelique Kerber and No. 5 Petra Kvitova—owners of a combined five Grand Slam titles—exited Saturday, both at Louis Armstrong Stadium, the same new arena where No. 1 Simona Halep and No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki were beaten earlier in the tournament.

Over in Ashe at night, five-time major champion Maria Sharapova eliminated No. 10 Jelena Ostapenko, 6-3, 6-2. No. 6 Caroline Garcia and No. 13 Kiki Bertens also lost, while 2017 runner-up Madison Keys came back to beat Aleksandra Krunic, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Two seeded men lost in the afternoon to unseeded opponents: No. 4 Alexander Zverev and No. 17 Lucas Pouille. Zverev still has never made the fourth round in visits to New York after being beaten, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 by Philipp Kohlschreiber in an all-German matchup, while Joao Sousa defeated Pouille, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5). Kohlschreiber now meets 2014 runner-up Kei Nishikori, who got past No. 13 Diego Schwartzman, 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1.

At night, 2014 U.S. Open title winner Marin Cilic erased a two-set deficit and edged 19-year-old Alex de Minaur, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 in Armstrong in a match that ended at 2:22 a.m. on Sunday, four minutes shy of the record for latest tournament finish. Hours earlier, 13-time major champion Novak Djokovic easily beat No. 26 Richard Gasquet 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 under the lights in Ashe.

Djokovic could meet Federer in the quarterfinals. First, though, both get what shape up as mismatches in the fourth round: Federer plays 55th-ranked John Millman, and Djokovic faces 68th-ranked Sousa. Neither Millman nor Sousa has ever made it this deep at any Grand Slam tournament.

"Look, I know that I'm the clear favorite in the match," Djokovic said. "At the same time I will try to maintain the level of focus and performance and level of tennis that I've had today."

Federer knows Millman well, because they practiced with each other ahead of the grass-court portion of this season.

The outcome of Federer vs. Kyrgios might very well have been decided in the very early going, long before Federer's "How did he do that?!" trick shot in the third set.

Tiger surges in second round to stay in contention

NORTON, Massachusetts (AP)—Tiger Woods zipped up the leaderboard on Saturday in the second round of the 2018 Dell Technologies Championship with a flawless, bogey-free 66 to get to 4-under overall for the tournament. Woods is T21 and trails leader Webb Simpson by 7, but he's at least within striking distance with 36 holes to go in the second of four FedEx Cup Playoff tournaments.

The 66 was Woods' sixth on the year to go along with a single 64 and a pair of 65s.

After a poor ball-striking round on Friday in the first round, Woods finished in the top 10 in driving on Saturday and in the top 20 from tee to green. Maybe even more importantly his new TaylorMade putter didn't wane, and he gained multiple strokes on the field for the second consecutive round.

That led to birdies on holes Nos. 3, 7, 10, 14 and 17. He started feeling it a little bit at the end of the day after a solid first nine of 34. Woods hit three approach shots of 7 feet or less on the back nine and made two of those three putts. He made up for the lone miss with a 25-foot bomb on the long par-4 14th.

Woods has been remarkably accurate thus far off the tee, hitting 22-of-28 fairways over the first 36 holes. That's T3 in a field of nearly 100. He came into this tournament ranking No. 159 on the PGA Tour in driving accuracy.

Now Tiger will have to run down some hot hands in Simpson and the golfers just behind him at 10 under, Justin Rose and Tyrrell Hatton. Woods' Round 3 scoring average is No. 2 on the PGA Tour this year, but with the hole he dug himself with that 1-over 72 on Friday, he'll have to be flawless over the final two days if he wants to reach victory No. 80.

Meanwhile, under the previous U.S. Ryder Cup system, when the top 10 players in the points standings qualified and there were just two captain's picks, Phil Mickelson would have already been on this year's team. As it stands, though, only the top eight are on the squad and he'll need to rely on being picked for the first time in his career.

"It is a little different," he conceded Saturday afternoon at TPC Boston.

Though it's unlikely Mickelson would be left off the team no matter how he plays this week, making the cut at the Dell Technologies Championship at least helps strengthen the argument for being in Paris next month and could make things at least a little easier for captain Jim Furyk. Lefty is 10th in the points standings but has just one top 10 since winning in Mexico in the beginning of March.

Early on in the second round at TPC Boston, that hardly looked like a certainty. Mickelson made two bogeys in his first four holes then doubled the par-4 14th after blowing his tee shot left and into a hazard, forcing a drop and leading to a double bogey.

Alas, it wasn't long before he righted the ship, though, starting with a birdie on the par-5 18th and two more birdies on Nos. 5 and 7 to go with a nervy 5-footer on the last to save par for a one-over 71 to guarantee a couple more rounds and make the projected cut on the number at two over.

Had Mickelson missed the cut, it would have been the third time he has done so in his last six starts and his fifth missed cut in 20 starts this year

RG3 hangs on in Baltimore, McCarron dealt to Oakland

MARYLAND (AP)—RG3 is staying put, while AJ is switching coasts.

Robert Griffin III, the 2012 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year whose career has been disrupted by injuries since that season, remained with Baltimore as the Ravens cut their roster to the league maximum of 53 on Saturday. He'll likely be the third-string quarterback behind Joe Flacco and first-round draft pick Lamar Jackson, but he still has a job.

AJ McCarron, who signed with Buffalo as a free agent after four years as a backup QB in Cincinnati, was traded by the Bills to Oakland. The Raiders closed a deal with Chicago to send star pass rusher Khalil Mack to the Bears for a slew of draft picks, including two first-rounders.

Among the intriguing players let go were Dallas kicker Dan Bailey, Chiefs cornerback David Amerson, Ravens receiver Breshad Perriman, Bengals defensive end Michael Johnson, Texans receiver Braxton Miller and guard Davis Quessenberry, and Steelers quarterback Landry Jones.

AP
Baltimore Ravens quarterback Robert Griffin III passes during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

QUARTERBACKS

Griffin signed a one-year deal with the Ravens in April after sitting out the entire 2017 season. He was Washington's first-round choice in 2012, second overall, and led the Redskins to the playoffs that year before things went sour.

"There's no doubt that you want Robert Griffin on your team," coach John Harbaugh said after the final preseason game. "He makes our quarterback room better and stronger. He's a very good quarterback. He looks like a starter to me. He has been a starter. Certainly a backup in this league, without question. I mean, that's not even close. I would like to have him on the team, we'll just have to see how the math works."

It worked.

Another survivor thus far: Paxton Lynch in Denver.

The 2016 first-rounder got through cutdown day despite slipping to third on the depth chart this summer. Chad Kelly leapfrogged Lynch last month and became the second seventh-rounder to beat out the former Memphis star. Trevor Siemian also managed it, but is now with Minnesota.

In Pittsburgh, Josh Dobbs' impressive preseason cost Jones his job. The Steelers kept Dobbs and rookie Mason Rudolph as the primary backups to Ben Roethlisberger. Dobbs made significant strides in his second training camp and ended the preseason by throwing for a touchdown and running for another in a victory over Carolina. Jones had been 3-2 as a starter in five pro seasons, with eight touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Cincinnati put vet Matt Barkley (knee) on injured reserve, leaving Jeff Driskel as the backup to Andy Dalton heading into the season.

BUSY GRUDEN

The Raiders waived Martavis Bryant just over four months after trading a third-round pick to Pittsburgh for the receiver.

The decision to cut Bryant came on a busy day for returning coach Jon Gruden, who dealt holdout pass rusher Mack to the Bears.

Oakland got nothing out of the third-round draft pick sent to the Steelers for Bryant, who dealt with injuries in training camp and has had several off-field issues in his career.

McCarron came from Buffalo for a 2019 fifth-round pick. He was both injured and inconsistent for the Bills in preseason and fell behind first-rounder Josh Allen and Nathan Peterman.

Among the other notable players cut by Gruden were 2015 second-round defensive lineman Mario Edwards Jr. and 2016 fourth-round quarterback Connor Cook. Edwards' release means the Raiders now have none of their second-round picks from 2015-17 on the current roster.

FAILED DRAFT PICKS

The Ravens parted with Perriman, the team's first-round pick in 2015. He managed just 43 catches for 576 yards and three touchdowns over 27 career games. It marked the first time in franchise history the Ravens cut a first-round pick before the end of his rookie contract.

The Bills chose not to hold onto receiver Corey Coleman, who has been a disappointment since the Browns made him the 15th overall selection two years ago. Buffalo traded a seventh-round pick in 2020 for him.

RELEASED VETERANS

Brian Robison and Terence Newman were released by Minnesota.

Robison was about to begin his 12th season with the team. Newman, the oldest defensive player in the NFL, will retire and immediately join the coaching staff— three days before his 40th birthday.

Robison, who's tied for ninth in Vikings history with 60 career sacks, was the longest-tenured player on the team. Drafted in the fourth round in 2007, he spent six of his 11 years with the Vikings as a full-time starter. Danielle Hunter moved ahead of him on the depth chart in 2017, and for the second straight offseason Robison took a pay cut to return in 2018.

LEE

From Page 28

rule the weekend tournament and post the best gross score in the entire field after firing a 3-under par 33 in the first nine holes. He started the round with back-to-back birdies on the par-4 No. 1 and par-5 No. 2 and did the same on the par-4 No. 5 and 8 to close out the front nines with a two-shot lead over Kallas (1-under 35). Lee than added another birdie on the par-5 No. 14 and saved pars on six of the last nine holes to keep his distance. Chandler, on the other hand, slowed down in the final nine holes with his 39, allowing Retardo (36/38) to catch him up.

Meanwhile, Ned Norita, Diego Benavente, Burt Suda, Anthony Benavente, Nick Sablan, and Hyun Son were the top finishers in the other flights.

Son recorded a net 72 to rule the Ladies Flight, while Yuko Togawa and Shirley Jones joined her in the Top 3 after registering 73 and 73.60, respectively. In the A Flight, there was also a close battle for the Top 3 with Norita carding a net 70 to prevail against the 70.20 and 70.40 of Peter Tenorio and Joseph Muna.

In the B Flight, Diego Benavente was under the weather, but still came out with his A game to clinch first place in the division after recording the entire field's second-best net score (69). He was two shots ahead of runner-up Albert Pajarillaga (71), while Calvin Yamagishi rounded out the Top 3 following his net 71.20.

In the C Flight, Suda won a closely fought competition against Ray Santos, as the former tallied a net 71.60 against the latter's 71.80. Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa finished third with his 73.40 net.

In the Senior Flight, Anthony Benavente logged the best low net score (68.40) in last weekend's tournament to win against five other golfers in his division. Anthony was joined in the podium by Bob Hudkins and Joe Tenorio, who carded nets 71 and 72, respectively.

For the Super Senior Flight, perennial winner Nick Sablan was at it again, as his net 73 gave him the victory in the nine-player field. Fellow veteran golfers Tony Satur and Frank Castro completed the Top 3 of the division after posting 73.60 and 73.80 respectively.

ANDREW

From Page 28

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel joined Andrew in the Top 3. Tajima got the runner-up honors after placing second in the sprints (10.7 points) and third in the long distance (18.7). Kabiriel was second in the long distance (13.4) and third in the series of sprints (12 points) to complete the podium finish in the weekend event organized by Windsurfing Saipan's Shigeru Tomita with the help of Docomo Pacific, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and the DPS Boating Safety.

Other finishers in the two-day competitions were (in order of overall rankings, from fourth to 13th) were Carter Calma, Maverick Itibus, Steven Goodwin, Bill Grow, Koen Kabiriel, Robin Sapong, Noke Rogopes, Rich Salas, Jose Quan, and Jun Shimada. Strong winds, intermittent rains, and some waves greeted the paddlers in last Saturday's five sprints races, causing some to fall to the water while making their turn on their way back to the start/finish line.

In the women's division, Matagolai won three out of the five sprints races and was the first to complete the long distance event to edge Soledad Quan, who topped the second and third sprints and was runner-up in the 4-mile competition. Fish Wang finished third in the long distance course and did only three of the sprints to settle for third place.

CNMI

From Page 28

Women's team vs Mongolia today

Meanwhile, the CNMI Women's National Team will have its debut match today when it takes on the host country at 5pm.

Like the Blue Ayuyus, the Commonwealth's women's team is also made up of young players. The women's roster has Emalyn Aniana, Guinevere Borja, Sharmaine Francisco, Jerlyn and Jeralyn Castillo, Gillian Villagomez, Gabrielle Race, Gianna Griffin, Emiliana King, Britany Wally, Janelle Chojnacki, Carla Ballesteros, Krizel Tuazon, Therize Millare, Katrina Costales, Grace Choi, Pauylynn Joyce, and Sue Ann Huevos. Griffin arrived in Mongolia from the U.S. last Friday, while majority of the members of the squad came from a training camp in Japan and also made it to Mongolia last weekend. Costales, King, Francisco, and Joyce were reunited with their teammates last Saturday after flying out of Saipan Friday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI players sing the Commonwealth's anthem during a ceremony before their game against Guam in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 yesterday in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	94	43	.686	—
New York	86	50	.632	7½
Tampa Bay	72	63	.533	21
Toronto	61	74	.452	32
Baltimore	40	96	.294	53½

Central Division

Cleveland	77	58	.570	—
Minnesota	63	72	.467	14
Chicago	54	82	.397	23½
Detroit	54	82	.397	23½
Kansas City	44	91	.326	33

West Division

Houston	83	53	.610	—
Oakland	81	56	.591	2½
Seattle	76	60	.559	7
Los Angeles	66	70	.485	17
Texas	59	77	.434	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	75	60	.556	—
Philadelphia	72	63	.533	3
Washington	68	68	.500	7½
New York	60	75	.444	15
Miami	54	82	.397	21½

Central Division

Chicago	80	55	.593	—
St. Louis	76	60	.559	4½
Milwaukee	76	61	.555	5
Pittsburgh	66	70	.485	14½
Cincinnati	58	78	.426	22½

West Division

Arizona	74	62	.544	—
Los Angeles	74	62	.544	—
Colorado	73	62	.541	½
San Francisco	68	69	.496	6½
San Diego	54	84	.391	21

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inaugural Micro Beach SUP Challenge

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants and organizers of the Inaugural Micro Beach SUP Challenge pose for a group photo after one of the sprints races last Saturday in the waters off Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Paddlers on Heat 2 push hard as they near the finish line of the sprints event.

Maverick Itibus, right, runs out of the water, while Billy Grow, center, still navigates his way to the shore.

Joshua Andrews leads Heat 1 of the sprints.

Fish Wang jumps out of the board to head to the finish line.

Hyatt Regency Saipan's Robin Sapong, left, takes photos of the paddlers heading out to the course.

Female paddlers get ready at the starting line.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel walks along the shore with his paddle board after warming up for the races.

Tanaka, Torres lead Yanks over Tigers; McCutchen hitless

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Federer makes 'unreal' shot; 10 of Top 13 women out

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Lee dethrones Retardo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior golfer Edward Lee foiled William Retardo's bid for a three-peat after prevailing in the 3rd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament held last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Not even the double-peoria format of the fund-raising tournament could prevent Lee from dethroning two-time winner Retardo in the centerpiece Championship Flight, as the former shot a gross 2-under par 70 on the east course of the Kagman facility. With a 0 handicap, Lee kept his original score, which was still ahead of the net 70.40 of Retardo, who had a gross 74 and a 3.60 handicap. J.J. Atalig completed the Top 3 in the division after shooting a net 72.40 (gross 76 and 3.60 handicap). Lee, Retardo, and Atalig went home with $300, $200, and $100 for making it to the podium.

Chandler Kallas and Freddie Cataluna were the other golfers who played in the Championship Flight and logged nets 72.80 and 75.80, respectively.

The 15-year-old junior golfer managed to

See LEE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Top 3 finishers in the Championship Flight, from left, Edward Lee, William Retardo, and J.J. Atalig, pose for a photo during the awards ceremony for the 3rd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

CNMI drops opener in EAFF qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team bowed to rival Guam, 0-4, during the opening game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 yesterday at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

The Blue Ayuyus gave up two goals each to the Matao in the first and second half, allowing Guam to have a strong start in the four-team competition. Midfielder Devan Mendiola drew first blood for Guam with his shot in the 13th minute, while forward Marcus Lopez delivered the second one 12 minutes later. Guam's third goal came from many-time national team member and midfielder Jason Cunliffe in the 65th minute, while Lopez closed out for the winning squad in three minutes later.

Goalie Dallas Jaye, Isaiah Lagutang, siblings Shawn and Travis Nicklaw, Mark Chargualaf, Dominic Gadia, Ryan Quitugua, and Rin Katsumata joined Lopez, Cunliffe, and Mendiola on the Matao's starting unit.

The CNMI, on the other hand, had Jonathan Capayas, Hark Galarion, Enrico Del Rosario, Joel Fruit, Ryu Tanzawa, Jonathan Takano, Ryan Relucio, Sunjoon Tenorio, Dai Podziewski, John Michael Rojas, and Christopher Aninzo as its starters. Jehn Joyner, Nick Swaim, and Bo Barry also played in the Blue Ayuyus' first game, replacing Capayas, Podziewski, and Tenorio, respectively.

Meanwhile, the CNMI bets will take a break today before returning to the MFF Stadium tomorrow to face Mongolia in the 5pm game (7pm Saipan time).

In the other match yesterday, Mongolia was headed to victory as it led Macau, 4-1, halfway through the second half. The finals scores in the second game and other details of the CNMI-Guam duel will reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita, seventh left, and captain Jonathan Takano, right, join their counterparts from Mongolia, Guam, and Macau during the press conference for the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 last Saturday in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Andrew, Matagolai top SUP Challenge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veterans Justin Andrew and Hiromi Matagolai ruled the Inaugural Micro Beach SUP Challenge held over the weekend in the waters off the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Andrew, who represented the CNMI in the canoe competition of the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap last July, lorded it over in last Saturday's sprints race and also conquered yesterday's 4-mile course to prevail against 11 other paddlers in the men's division. Each paddler received points based on how they finished the race and the lowest led the rankings. Andrew collected 3.5 in the sprints and 7.5 in the long distance.

Japan's Watary Tajima and Saipan

See ANDREW on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joshua Andrew, left, paddles his way to a first place finish in the first sprint race in last Saturday's Inaugural Micro Beach SUP Challenge held in the waters off the Hyatt Regency Saipan.